

**In**



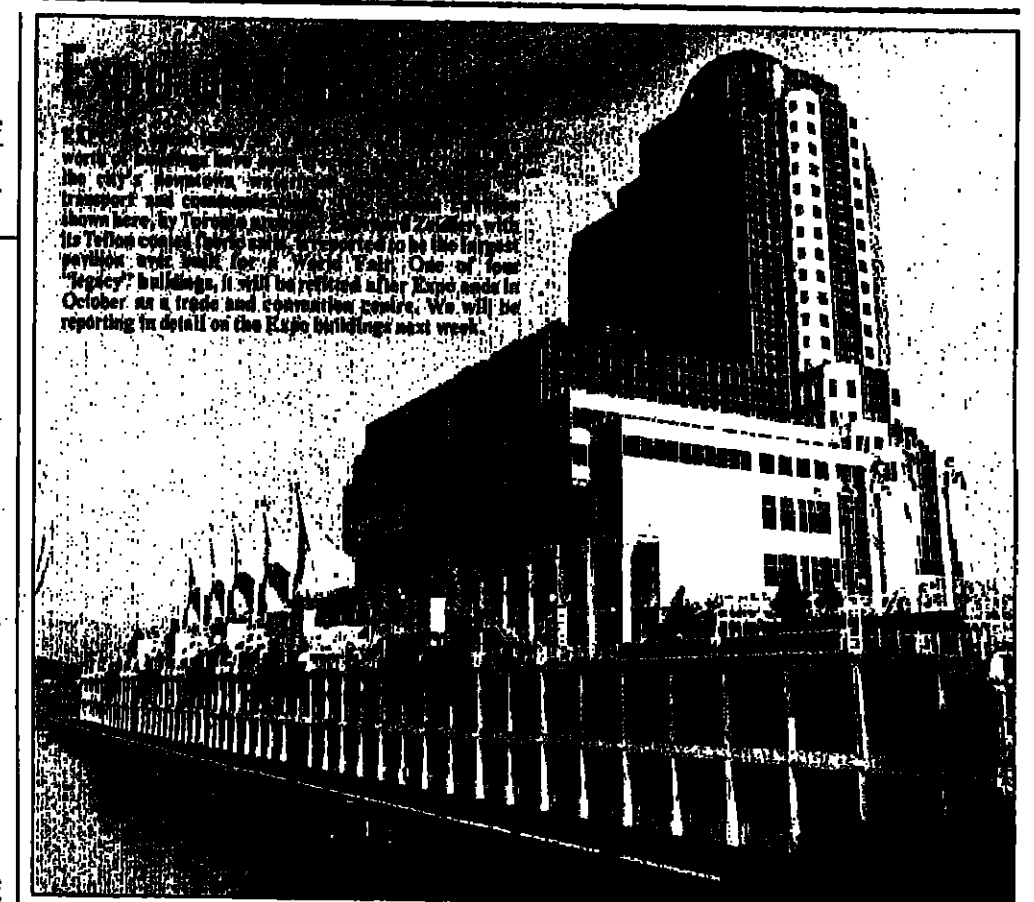
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**GOODBYE** Society of Architectural & Associated Technicians... hello British Institute of Architectural Technicians, the new name which came into effect yesterday.

The organisation, which is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year, will be holding a series of special events to celebrate both the anniversary and change of title, including a competition in association with *BD*.

Dave Howell, of the National Federation of Community Organisations, is chairman of the partnership.

The CAG had felt the RIBA establishment was trying to gain control of the NCP initiative and its community architecture conference, planned for the autumn.

The organisation, which is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year, will be holding a series of special events to celebrate both the anniversary and change of title, including a competition in association with *RD*.

Iain Tuckett, CSCB coordinator, said the delay was "on purely political grounds". He said the DoB had agreed that the scheme was within Government cost guidelines and there were no technical problems to it. "They have even agreed to pick up the extra costs caused by the delay".

Leigh told *BD* she believed that Lambeth's housing policy

**TELEVISION** South-West claimed doubled viewing figures this week for its showing of a twice-blocked programme on Module 2, the Bridgend-based architects and project managers.

Module 2, along with Plymouth and Torbay councils, managed to stop the programme being broadcast last week and at the weekend by protesting to the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The programme, which looked at Module 2's track record as a background to its work on a new leisure and conference centre for Plymouth, was finally shown on Tuesday despite a threat of a writ from Module 2 still hanging over the television station.

Changes made to the programme included cutting one interview and adding further comments from Module 2 chief executive David Temme about

The programme also looked into the background of Module 2's Torbay conference centre contract, including an interview with former Torbay chief architect and one-time Module 2 consultant, Ray Banks (see *BD* November 1, 1985).

Plymouth council was considering Module 2's feasibility studies for the £15 million new complex as *BD* went to press.

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FAR from representing a "monstrous regiment", the panelists from the avant-garde of women in architecture who led Tuesday night's discussion at the RIBA were characterised by their self-employment and lack of uniformity.

The four women's careers had been outstandingly successful in quite different directions, though they had experienced similar forms of discrimination which they all tended to dismiss in a charitably jokey way that disguised any lasting resentment.

Stridency was noticeably absent from the whole event, which might have been mistaken for a meeting of the Women's Institute with its atmosphere of cosy friendliness. This gathering was only distinguished from more domestic assemblies by the tales related by the participants of their working lives which wryly expressed both the frustration and exhilaration of achieving success in a profession still overwhelmingly dominated by men.

Jane Drew is widely known as the wife of Maxwell Fry, ironically, since she vowed at the age of five, with schoolmate Peggy Ashcroft, never to use a man's name and to make a career of her own. She had achieved this with enough success before marrying Fry to make it difficult for her to decide, soon after the war, whether she should join him in West Africa. She eventually undertook the planning of Nigeria with two assistants, and built, with Fry, Ibadan University and teacher training colleges.

Drew's early professional experience was gained in her own practice, which at first consisted entirely of women.

Leading women architects described their careers at the RIBA. Jan Burney listened.

## Woman's hour



Left to right: chairwoman Lynne Walker, Rosemary Stjernstedt, Pat Tindale, Jane Drew and Elaine Denby.

She knew how difficult it was for them to find jobs after leaving college, having been refused employment herself in countless offices, including Maxwell Fry's. The policy of discrimination was not sustained for long when a stream of male architects like Erno Goldfinger and Cyril Mendall began to turn up at the interesting new practice begging for jobs. It was a novel experience for Drew to encounter obstinacy rather than indulgence from male colleagues after the Architectural Association,

where there were so few women that "you could have had a hair-clip and a skirt and still be taken out to lunch" and where she had 16 proposals before marrying her first husband while in her fourth year.

In the 1930s, Drew was a member of CIAM and the Mars Group and could always be sure of meeting fellow members of the English cultural avant-garde — like Herbert Read, Henry Moore, Elizabeth Lutyens — taking coffee in the Cafe Royal. While she was working

with other friends from those days on the Festival of Britain in 1951, she and Fry were asked out to India to build Chandigarh and she telephoned Le Corbusier to ask him to join them. In India, she formed a friendship with Nehru, "the only politician who really cared about town planning", and was responsible for persuading him to give young Indian architects, like Charles Correa, their first opportunities to build in their own country.

While Drew was taking coffee at the Cafe Royal, Pat Tindale, the recently retired chief architect at the Department of the Environment, was doing holiday jobs to finance her career at the Architectural Association and never saw a foreign cathedral until she qualified.

Tindale was generous in her acknowledgement of individuals of both sexes who had encouraged her in her rise to the top ranks of her profession. Her first employer, Felix Samuely, and the school building team at the Ministry of Education, expanding their architectural approaches in line with the 1944 Education Act, earned her gratitude. Life at the Ministry of Housing, where all the key positions were occupied by men, was more difficult and less liberal but kept in balance by the permanent secretary, Dame Evelyn Sharp.

Tindale's trip to the US to study housebuilding techniques, which produced her influential book on timber-frame construction, would not have been possible after the radical change she noticed on the election of the Thatcher government in 1979. Cuts replaced expansion, but she did applaud the achievements of Michael Heseltine as environment secretary in making architecture a popular issue.

When Elaine Denby qualified just after the war, she was refused a job by Fry, Drew & Partners among others, but went on to establish her own successful practice after gaining administrative experience with Westminster architects department.

Denby was grateful to get her first jobs which, inevitably, were for kitchen planning, but she graduated to taking on an immensely varied workload which includes housing for special needs and commercial buildings. She agreed that multi-dominated establishment enclaves might restrict women architects' opportunities, but suggested that they attach themselves to more interesting areas of patronage.

Rosemary Stjernstedt described her glittering career in local government with stunning modesty.

After graduating from Birmingham in 1934 she moved to London and designed church furniture for half the man's wage before completing an evening course in planning and going to Sweden to work on universities and housing, becoming planning officer in Gothenburg. The first senior woman architect in management and design at the London County Council, Stjernstedt was a leader of the group who built Roehampton East and of Lambeth architects department. She described a series of remarkable achievements almost dismissively, with a diffidence that would be hard to find among her male counterparts. Unfortunately, few of them were in the audience, but it is certain that the RIBA committee meeting upstairs had precisely the opposite balance. A more even distribution would have given the event a more optimistic flavour.

Ian Latham on "The form of the city" symposium at the AA.

## City lights

WITH the share of the world's population living in the largest cities expected to double by 2025, there can be no doubt about the urgent need for research and discussion about the nature of cities.

The statistic is all the more surprising in the context of declining populations in almost all European cities, but it was with the special problems they face that "The form of the city: between architecture and urbanism" was concerned.

Organised by Michel Bandini for the general studies unit and the graduate school at the Architectural Association, the symposium centred on four views of the post-industrial city.

Marcel Echenique, reader in architecture and urban studies at Cambridge University and consultant on major urban projects in Europe, America and the Middle East, examined the phenomenon of the declining inner city and the failed attempts to regenerate industrial growth. Urbanity, Echenique believes, can be achieved through culture and communication: it isn't necessarily a result of built form. So his strategy suggests forming public spaces out of disused land.

Michael Wilford's presentation developed from his critical review of the market-led planning policy of the London Docklands Development Corporation. The comprehensive and exemplary analyses which characterise the methodology of Stirling, Wilford & Associates prefaced three projects: the arts centre for Cornell University at Ithaca, a new plaza and bus station in Bilbao, and a study of London's Royal Docks by four students at Sheffield University under Wilford's guidance. Responses to the latter proposal, for what Alex Wall described as

one of the longest urban open spaces in Europe, were mixed, and Christopher Cross expressed general misgivings about the nostalgic-laden collage approach.

Manuel Sola-Morales, Professor at Barcelona University, where he is also working on a project for the renewal of the urban front of the harbour, gave a thoughtful discourse entitled "size is not scale". He argued that the conventional belief that urban design was about large scale, and architecture about small scale, was misguided. He favours a "cross scalar approach" which can reverse this to consider the substantial effects that can be produced from minor and subtle intervention. Concern for the middle ground between architecture and planning forms the central thesis of Bernardo Secchi, whose approach was outlined in his absence by Richard Burdett. As holder of the chair of Casabella at Venice, an editor of *Casabella* and consultant for the master plan of Madrid (and now working on Sienne) Secchi is an important and influential figure in urban design, especially in relation to meaning in the form of the city.

An instructive comparative exercise can be made between the massive urban developments in Berlin, where the International Building Exhibition is overseeing the instatement of perimeter housing blocks with all party political backing; in Paris, where the Grand Projets (culture sheds, Louvre extensions, Bastille Opera, and La Villette Park are among them) and in London's Docklands, where massive development is a direct result of market forces.

## News

### Flotation proves a winner for DY Davies

SHARE prices in the architectural practice for the Unlisted Securities Index have rocketed in the first trading.

DY Davies plc's flotation, which has seen a rise from an opening price of £1.55 to break the £2 barrier, could open the doors for practices considering "publicity".

The success of DY Davies recent placing in the market, helped by the company's appointment to coordinate the million extension to the City hall in the City of London, announced on the day of the launch.

Company chairman David Davies said he was delighted with the success of the deal which has raised £700,000 for the company to carry out expansion plans.

He confirmed that takeover talks were going on with "one or two" practices.

### Desperate cash plea

NEGOTIATIONS are going on between the DoE and the Stockbridge Village Trust in Knowsley, Merseyside, in a desperate attempt to avoid cutting the pioneering regeneration project.

Severe cash problems have left the trust pleading for at least £3 million from the Government, plus asking banks and building societies to defer loans.

The trust, launched three years ago by then environment secretary Michael Heseltine, has found the cost of refurbishing the depressed Cantrill Farm estate to be much greater than first estimated, and that it will take at least two years longer than proposed.

### Splash launch

MORE than 20 new fountains were proposed for prime locations in London this week, at the launch of the Fountain Society. The group is aiming to draw together developers, architects, planners and the public to build new fountains and repair existing ones. Costs could come from planning gain, a development levy, or sponsorship, it is suggested.

The society has called for an international competition to be held to put a fountain outside the International Conference Centre, Westminster, and a major fountain in Parliament Square as well.

### Heads see Rolland

NATHAN Silver, head of the threatened North East London Polytechnic school of architecture, will meet with RIBA president Larry Rolland next week to find out how the RIBA intends to support its recent resolution against school closures.

The meeting will also be attended by Huddersfield school head Tony Howard and South Bank poly head Hans Haezel.

### Privatising water may pose threat

PRIVATISATION of the water industry will threaten Britain's planning system, the Council for the Protection of Rural England claimed this week.

The conservationists said it would lead to the "corruption" of land use planning, with water companies finding it commercially desirable to back housebuilders' demands for more land for housing.

CPRE secretary Robin Grove-White warned: "The new water companies could stand to get a direct piece of the action financially from actively stimulating new development, in partnership with developers, regardless of the public interest."

This would threaten water quality, the water table and the countryside.

### 'Robbing the poor'

GOVERNMENT policy on Housing Corporation allocations has been attacked in the House of Lords as "robbing the poor to pay the poor".

Lord Tordoff said money being put into inner-city Housing Corporation projects was being "taken from other poorer areas of the country".

Somerset housing associations were receiving only 50 per cent of last year's allocations. Other lords cited similar cuts nationwide.

Government housing spokesman Lord Skelmersdale said that, outside 80 designated housing stress areas, Housing Corporation cash for 1986-87 was more than 50 per cent down on 1985-86.

### City limits pushing out

CITIES will hold almost half the world's population by the end of the century according to this year's State of World Population Report.

Urban dwellers already comprise more than 40 per cent of world population says a United Nations report.

### MPs move to end church exemption

THE Government has come under renewed pressure to end ecclesiastical exemption to getting listed building consent.

MPs last week attempted to introduce an amendment to the Housing and Planning Bill which would have ended churches' immunity from listed building controls.

Environment minister Richard Tracey pledged to ensure that the DoE would seek "a mutually acceptable solution" in revising the law. A consultation paper on revising the exemption was issued two years ago, but church opposition to any changes has so far blocked legislation.

Kettering MP Roger Freeman sought to introduce an amendment which would have put the churches on the same footing as secular applicants for listed building approval. He pointed out that the Church of England owned nearly 50 per cent of grade I buildings.

Architect MP Sydney Chapman, defending ecclesiastical exemption, claimed the Church

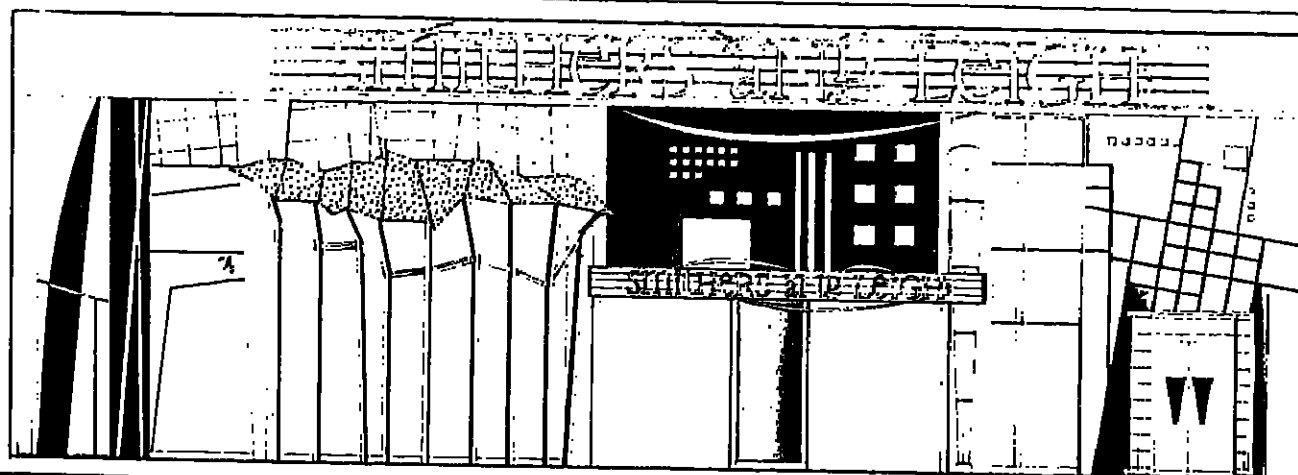
of England imposed "much greater safeguards" on itself than were involved with secular listed buildings. He said the Church's record on demolition compared favourably with those subject to normal controls.

### Metrocentre to spread

CAMERON Hall, developer of Newcastle's £150 million "shopping revolution", the Metrocentre, has revealed plans to build four more similar centres at Exeter, the Midlands, Scotland, and one in London "inside the M25".

John Hall, chairman of Cameron Hall, has said he will be using contractor Rush & Tompkins on all of the contracts, which should be worth more than £200 million. Consultant architects have not been chosen.

## News



### Store style

If this design for a shopfront appears somewhat discordant, then you are tuning in to the function behind the facade.

Smithers & Leigh is the latest of the mega-record shops springing up in the centre of London. For the best part of £1 million it has set out to prove it has more style than the rest, put together, courtesy of designers Crighton.

The store is on three floors in Oxford Street. Besides a large range of recorded music, it includes both a restaurant and an upmarket hi-fi department. The interior follows from this facade, which incorporates marble, granite, laminates and riveted aluminium.

## Architect's 'victimisation'

A CAMDEN architect has accused the local council of victimisation over its plans to prosecute him for using a residential building as a design office.

Keith Roberts, blamed "politicised officers in Camden's planning department". He claimed their action was taken because he is an outspoken critic of the council's restrictive planning policies.

In his role as planning committee chairman at the Camden Chamber of Commerce, Roberts said he had often clashed with the council over its "rather Luddite views".

These included "turning their back on the car". He said he

represented a view "that is in favour of business development".

Roberts is also standing as a Liberal/Alliance candidate for Camden in the local elections next week. He told *B2* that if elected he wanted to be on the planning committee so he could "stop the borough being run like East Berlin".

A spokeswoman from Camden Council denied that Roberts' political affiliations were in any way connected with the council's decision to prosecute.

She said it was "only because Mr Roberts used the whole of one house for business purposes that they decided to clamp down". This did not mean there would be a "purge" of other architects in the area.

Roberts has already been

prosecuted by the council. In 1970, it discovered he was using his house in Murray Mews, Kentish Town, as an architectural studio without planning permission. But the magistrate dismissed the case due to insufficient evidence.

Roberts lives in another property nearby which he has recently sold. His office is now the subject of a planning application for a mansard roof, two conservatories at the front and rear, and to glaze over the front porch.

He told Camden he would soon be living on the ground floor of the Murray Mews property and the office studio would continue on the first floor.

John Winter, secretary of the Camden Society of Architects,

said: "Camden is stuffed full of architects running their practices from home. This is not an issue we have ever discussed, but now we will."

Roberts said he hoped the case would be dropped, but "if it's not I intend to fight them all the way and I'll be doing the cottage industry of Camden a great favour".

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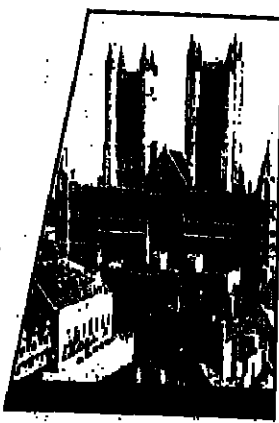
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## New Regs 'threaten security'

PROPOSED new Scottish Building Regulations threaten the security of people living in tenement homes, according to the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors.

It has told the Scottish Development Department that proposed reforms give insufficient protection to owners whose property is damaged by alterations to neighbouring properties.

## Sussex hosts planning talks

PLANNING, transportation and highway experts from around the world will be attending a major conference and exhibition at the University of Sussex from July 14 to 18.

Around 200 papers will be delivered at the 14th conference of the Planning and Transport Research and Computation Group. Details 01-8362208.

## Grants down

GRANTS paid to the British Board of Ament by the DoE have dropped from £545,000 in 1980-81 to a provision of just £175,000 for 1986-87. Sir George Young revealed in the Commons.



Saunders Boston's winning scheme.

# Competition winner misses contract for Colchester site

By Alan Thompson

HUTCHISON Locke & Monk with Lovell Construction have been awarded the £2.8 million contract for a new office complex for Colchester council, despite coming second in a design and build competition for the site.

Now there is speculation that the scheme might never go ahead if the ruling Tory Party is ousted in the local elections next week.

Borough property services officer Ken Bell admitted the scheme did encounter local opposition in its early stages, but he hopes the new plans, which conserve many of the shop fronts in the historic Angel Yard site, will get all-party support. "There would be a contract-

ual obligation to follow through with the council's decision and it could be very expensive for a new council to reverse that decision," he said.

The council-run competition voted a scheme by Saunders Boston and William Sindall as the winners of the design

competition, but the council's estates committee opted for Hutchison Locke & Monk's scheme as the contract winner.

Peter Boston of Saunders Boston told *BD*: "This has been an awful waste of time and money for us."

Saunders Boston received £3,600 as winners, Hutchison Locke & Monk got £1,800, and the third placed scheme by

Fielden & Mawson with John Laing Construction won £1,200. A fourth scheme, by Purcell Miller & Tritton, was awarded £400, though its design was not eligible to be built after developer New Ideal Developments pulled out of the competition.

Indeed, five out of eight finalists withdrew because they could not get their designs within the strict cost given.



The scheme that is to be built, by Hutchison Locke & Monk.

## Housing pledge

HIGH quality new homes in rent were pledged this week by the Labour Party in its *Manifesto for Rural Areas*.

The manifesto — timed to attract votes in the West Derbyshire and Ryedale by-elections — also says housing associations would be set up in rural areas.

## Nene scheme

JT DESIGNS Build of Britain are to design a £10.5 million tourist centre on the banks of the Nene in Northampton.

## Pickering relaunches congress

LAST month's failed Construction Industry Congress is to be relaunched later this month.

The congress, billed as "the first of its kind in this country", wanted to unite the construction industry to give it a greater say in its future.

But its inaugural meeting at the Barbican was called off after less than 100 people registered.

CIC chairman Maurice Pickering told *BD*: "There is still lots of support for the aims of the congress and there will be a smaller meeting of interested people in May."

## NCAF head

Dave Howell of the National Federation of Community Organisations is the new chairman of the National Community Aid Fund — the umbrella group which promotes the joint interests of about 20 organisations, including the RIBA.

# Strathclyde to appoint another practitioner

GORDON Benson, of influential London-based practice Benson & Forsyth, has been offered a professorship at the Strathclyde University school of architecture.

If he accepts, this will mark a further strengthening of the ranks of practitioners in Scottish schools — the other five schools are headed by practitioners, and Benson could

expect to take a turn at heading Strathclyde's department under the university's system of rotating the headship every two years.

Strathclyde University would not confirm the job offer this

By Lewis Blackwell

week. Nor would Benson, who said he had not been appointed to the job "yet", and that it was a rumour.

But the university admitted it had an announcement ready if Benson says yes. The appointment will be doubled up with the promotion of Peter Reed from reader to professorship.

Benson is to be brought in to replace Professor Marcos Asad, who left last year. Professor Tom Markus is also due to retire soon.

Benson is expected to begin with a part-time post, while he sorts out arrangements at his practice.

As revealed in Benson and Forsyth's lecture at the RIBA in January, the practice has not received a regular supply of major commissions to follow their major housing scheme at Maiden Lane, Camden.

Both partners have taught at the Architectural Association.

## High flyers head new DoE unit

ENVIRONMENTAL and conservation issues are to have a higher profile at the DoE.

Five young Civil Service high-flyers have been picked by environment secretary Kenneth Baker to head a new central environmental unit at Marsham Street.

The unit, headed by 34-year-old Roger Bright, will be responsible for "analysis and coordination of policies spanning the department's concerns for environmental protection and conservation as well as liaising with other departments whose policies affect the environment".

Baker sees it as an important step in making the most of Britain's presidency of the European Community, which will run from July to December, to push through EC-wide environmental policies.

## Price rise culprit

CONRAN Roche director Lee Shostak has blamed the restriction on housing land in the South-east for causing rocketing house prices.

He told the inquiry into the proposal to build the Tillingham Hall new town in Essex that research showed a growing demand from Londoners for a house outside London — partly as a result of housing shortfalls in the city.

Conran Roche, leading consultants to the promoters, Consortium Developments, submitted evidence claiming that on top of the 15,000 homes proposed at Tillingham Hall, a further 448,000 homes would be needed in the region to cope with demand.

## Lack of cash dashes hopes of Chinese deals

ATTEMPTS by the Department of Education & Science to sell British expertise and design to China are being hampered by the country's lack of foreign cash.

The DES Laboratories Investigation Unit is already working as architectural design consultant to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) on the modernisation of its Beijing Institute of Chemistry (*BD* September 27, 1985).

In addition, it helped to win orders worth £400,000 for British laboratory equipment.

This has led to hopes of the unit becoming involved in the modernisation of some of the Chinese academy's 117 other institutes, but so far this has not happened.

LIU's chief, architect Roger Clynes, said: "The CAS has expressed interest in another project, but is limited by the amount of foreign currency it has to spend."

The DES will be promoting the activities of its architects and building branch at the China Didacta 86 exhibition in Beijing from June 5-12.

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## JAP win planning battle

After a lengthy planning battle, John Assael & Partners have just won planning permission for a high quality housing scheme in Fulham for John Lillioff Homes.

The commission was gained as a result of last year's Architect exhibition at the Barbican where the JAP stand impressed Lillioff. JAP were appointed to prepare a design for a former garage workshop site in Munster Road. The 0.2ha site, bounded by houses on the north side and two blocks of flats on the south and west, proved awkward. Their solution was an introverted scheme, comprising 10 houses of various sizes around a courtyard, and two studio flats over the arched entrance to the development. All the houses have garages and gardens and parking spaces are provided for the flats. The expected contract value is £1 million and the completion date is spring 1987.

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Birmingham-based Walters Cassidy & Ashton have produced plans to replace shops destroyed during the Handsworth riots. A street market now occupies 87-107 Loxells Road and the block (above) would be one of three. The £2.75 million proposals have been produced for the Loxells Traders Association, which is hoping for full planning permission from the city council within the next two months.

## London to host land congress

THE World Congress on Land Policy comes to Britain this year for the first time.

The congress was previously held in the United States under the auspices of its organisers, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the International Centre for Land Policy. They are joined by the Urban Land Institute.

Delegates to the congress, at the London Hilton and the Grosvenor House Hotel, will be welcomed to Britain by environment secretary Kenneth Baker. Speakers include Reg Ward, Robert Waterland of Jones Lang Wootton (La Defense, Paris), and Donald Hunt of the Channel Tunnel Group (port development).

Wyndham Thomas, chairman of Inner City Enterprises, will speak on British experience of cooperation between the public and private sectors in land development. Harold Dunkerley, senior adviser of the World Bank, will lead a workshop on housing policy.

Details of the congress are available from the Urban Land Institute, 1090 Vermont Avenue, Washington DC 20005, US.

## Awards by Rogers

RICHARD Rogers will present this year's APT award for the best advertising, promotional and technical literature within the building industry.

Before the presentation, at the Dorchester Hotel on July 3, there will be a morning conference on improving the effectiveness of printed communications between manufacturers and specifiers.

Speakers include Bryan Jefferson, director general of PSA/DoE design services, and Dargan Bullivant of Dargan Bullivant Associates.

Details from the APT Awards Office, PO Box 87, London EC4P 4HL, 01-333 5110.

## New centre for advice

THE Architectural Advisory Service Centre, which supplies information on metal finishes, has moved to a new home.

Displays at the new centre will allow architects and clients to compare the effects of different colours and finishes.

The centre is at Gorst Road, Park Royal, London NW10, 01-965 0833.

## Faulty estate subsidy

A COUNCIL estate in Tamworth, Staffordshire, will receive an extra £105,000 a year in housing subsidy to meet the interest charge on repairs to 250 faulty homes.

Tamworth council has refused to name the architects and builders of the fault-ridden Armitage North estate, who are both facing a council lawsuit.

Housing Minister John Patten visited the estate last week and agreed on the increased cash hand-out after seeing the dilapidated condition of many of the homes.

Defects include faulty cladding, unsafe floors and dangerous electrical installation. The cost of repairing the estate is put at £3 million — an increase of £1 million on previous estimates.

# Shopping centre lessons for high street designers

DESIGNERS of high street shopping schemes should look to more successful indoor shopping centres for inspiration, says the author of a report sponsored by the Royal Fine Art Commission.

Gordon Michel, of Michel & Partners, also blames local authorities for not meeting their responsibilities for maintaining design standards.

Michel wants a "national crusade" to make people more aware of the potential of their local high street, he told last week's Building Industry Convention in Brighton.

Other speakers also stressed the threat that high street shopping faces from the trend towards out of town developments. The message was that the high street has got to become more attractive to survive.

Michel's report, to be published in July, calls for pedestrianisation, increased environmental protection through features such as glazed colonnades, a controlled tenant mix and amenity "magnets", such as a children's play area or creche. These are typical shopping centre features which could be added to the high street.

The other advantage of shopping centres mentioned is management control. For the high street, Michel proposes that a leading role in bringing together traders, shoppers, council officers and local interest groups. This forum could then push for environmental improvements and act as watchdog to ensure higher design standards.

At its simplest level the forum could lobby for shop facades to be sympathetic to the architectural character of the building above. Pressure could also be exerted on multiple retailers to allow flexibility in the design of their corporate identity.

Michel cited Next, WH Smith and McDonalds as retailers which have demonstrated their willingness to adapt their usual signs to suit the street.

● Retailing has been undergoing a fundamental change in the last three years, according to Russell Schiller, head of research at property consultants Hillier Parker May & Rowden.

Many of the retail chains are now hedging their bets, opening out-of-town stores and selling off some of their high street sites.

There is further evidence of this trend in the failure of high street rents to match recent increases in overall retail turnover and profits, said Schiller.

"There are currently 23 million sq ft of out-of-town retail development either under way or proposed. It is a quite

unprecedented level of development," he said.

New forms of decentralised retail development are appearing, often due to a lack of suitable green belt sites.

Small attractive market towns and historical town centres such as York are likely to emerge

unscathed through their specialist attraction and tourist based outlets.

"The challenge for the developer and retailer will be to pick which town centres will prosper and which forms of decentralised retailing will survive," said Schiller.

## Hotel plan for Brum

PLANS for a hotel and office complex next to Birmingham International Airport have been submitted to Solihull council.

The 240-bedroom hotel is being designed by Envisage, a mental Design & Planning Consultants, London.

The scheme will include nine houses — to be sold privately by Sainsbury's — industrial units, a creche and a tea room, as well as 3,000sq m of retail space and parking for 360 cars.

Sainsbury's acceptance of the changes means the scheme will almost certainly get final planning approval this week.

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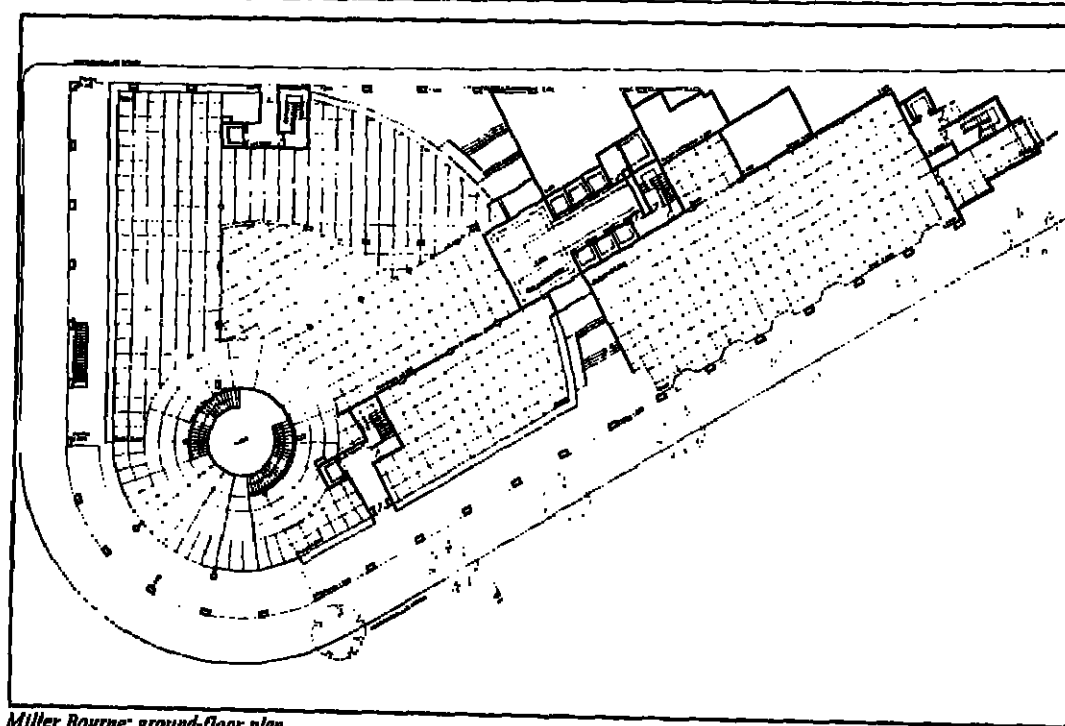
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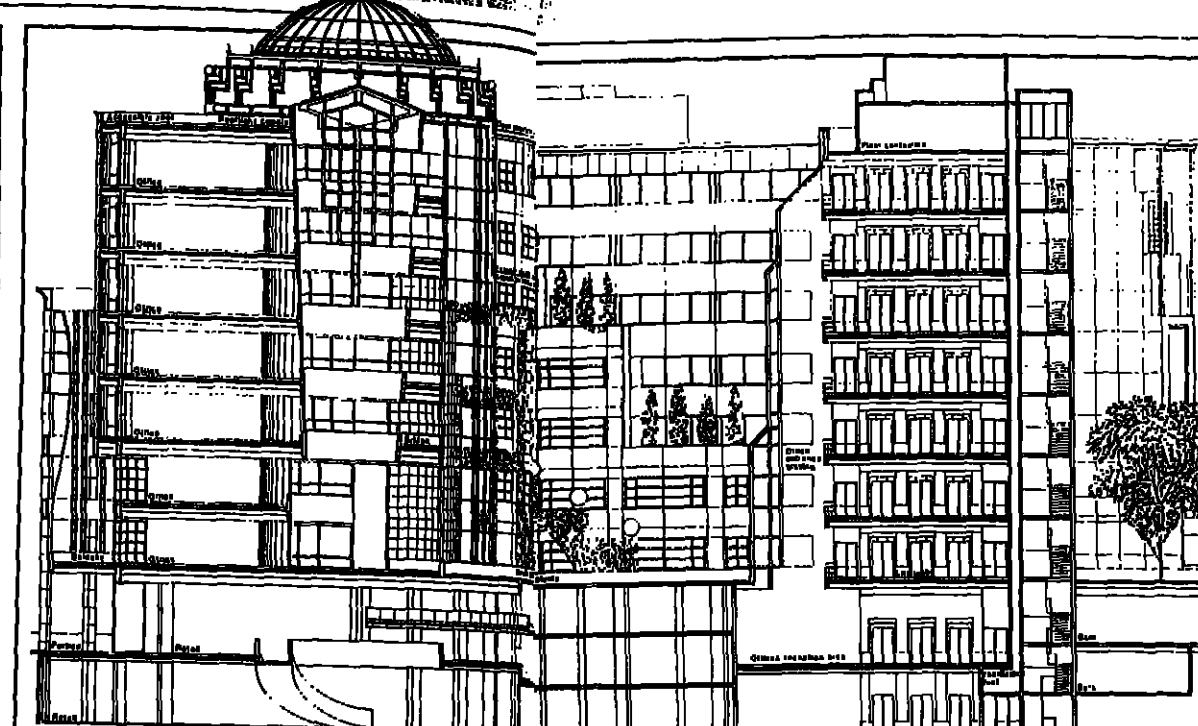


# Grand finale

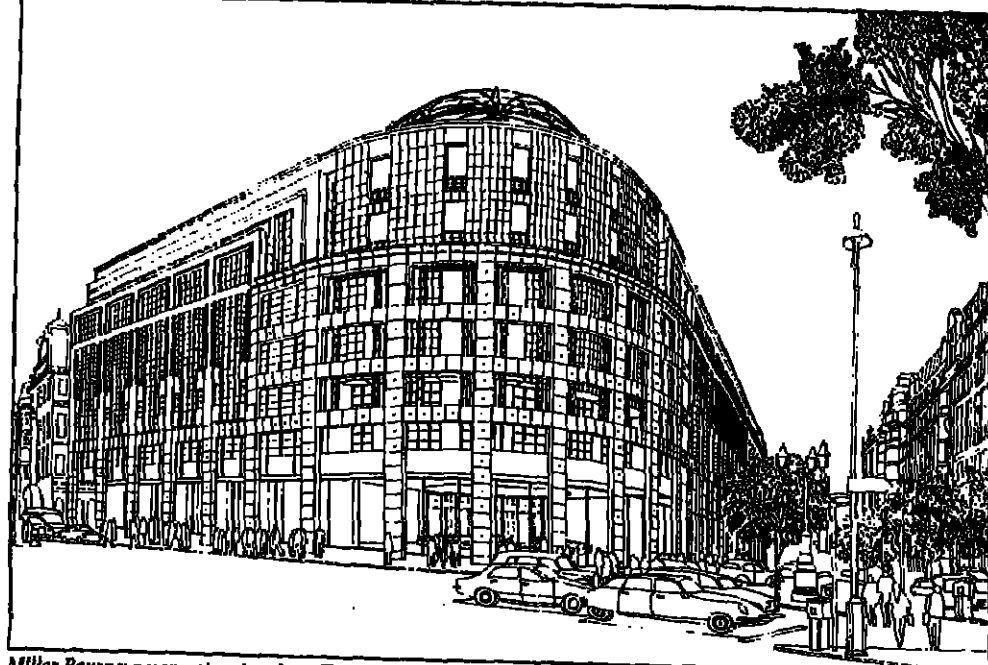
CONCLUDING coverage of the nine finalists' proposals for the Grand Buildings competition, we illustrate those by the Miller Bourne Partnership of Hove and two from Canada by Crang & Boake of Don Mills, Ontario, and Griffiths Rankin Cook of Ottawa, Ontario. Schemes by APP London and Nigel Mills and Ferenczi Design were illustrated in BD April 25. Richard Horden's in April 4 and the winning scheme by Sidell Gibson and runners-up YRM Partnership and Caroline Miller/James Utting were in March 28.



Miller Bourne: ground-floor plan.



Miller Bourne: longitudinal section.



Miller Bourne: perspective view from Trafalgar Square.

## The Miller Bourne Partnership

A well-mannered and sophisticated proposal that presents a dignified face to Trafalgar Square. Elevations suggest a fine steel air, and with the gridded and studded stone cladding, bronze panelling, carcases and open cupola one is reminded of Otto Wagner's Post Office Savings Bank in Vienna.

The building takes up the perimeter of the site, with a covered arcade along the Strand and half of the Northumberland Avenue elevations. A round atrium articulates the dominant corner, increasing in size as it rises to the cupola. The main entrance lobby is located in the centre of the building, adjacent to an inner courtyard at first-floor level, and accessed from both Northumberland Street and Northumberland Avenue.



Griffiths Rankin Cook: Strand elevation and corner facing Trafalgar Square.

## Griffiths Rankin Cook

A well-planned contextual response that combines a public arcade with an intersecting cross axis with reception and lobby for the office floors above. A perimeter arcade along the Strand and Northumberland Avenue gives access to a rotunda space that rises to a glazed rooflight marking the corner facing the square.

A smaller, cylindrical stair and lift tower, perhaps a watch tower or observation post, articulates the Strand junction with Northumberland Street.

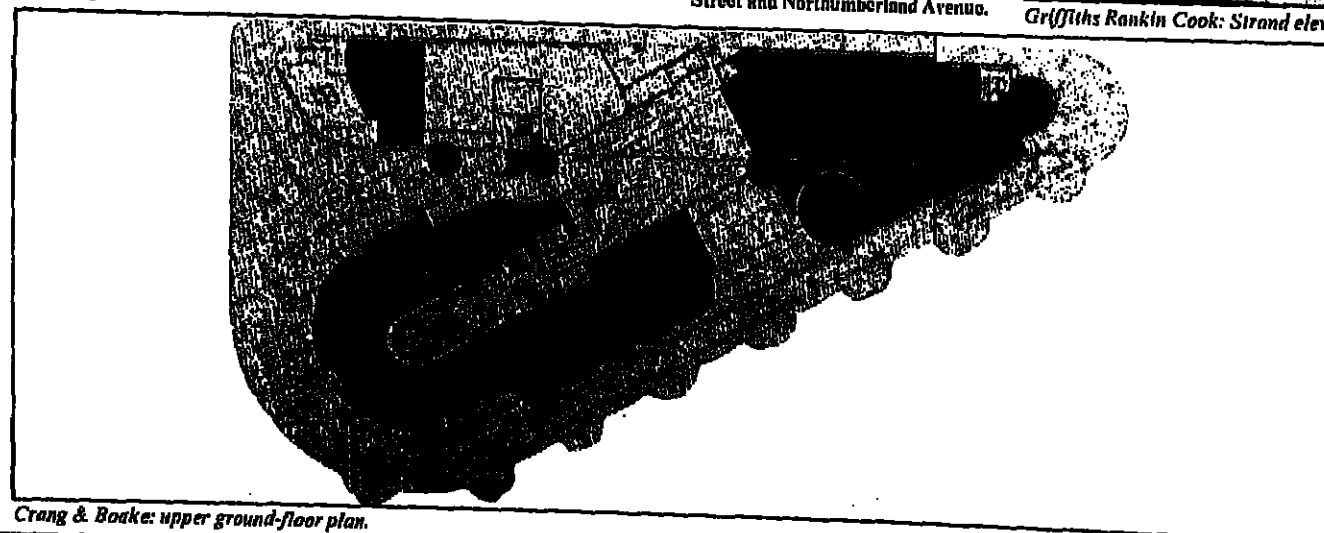
The facades, gridded patterns of cladding and windows arranged in receding layers, are interrupted by two large window bays, familiarisms of postmodernist vocabulary lent by Graves and Isazaki.

## Crang & Boake

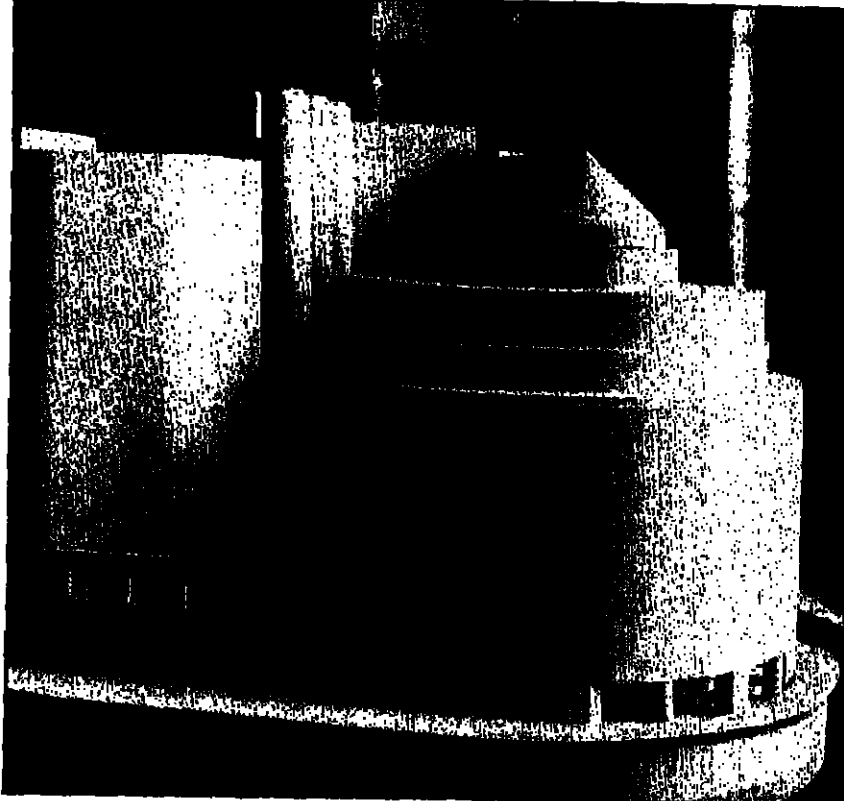
A dynamic proposal quite different in character to almost all other entries in the original competition.

The scheme reads as two colliding, or perhaps emerging forms; one a sleek, static linear block along Northumberland Street and aligned with adjacent blocks along the Strand; the other stone-clad block is oval in plan and aligned about an axis facing Trafalgar Square.

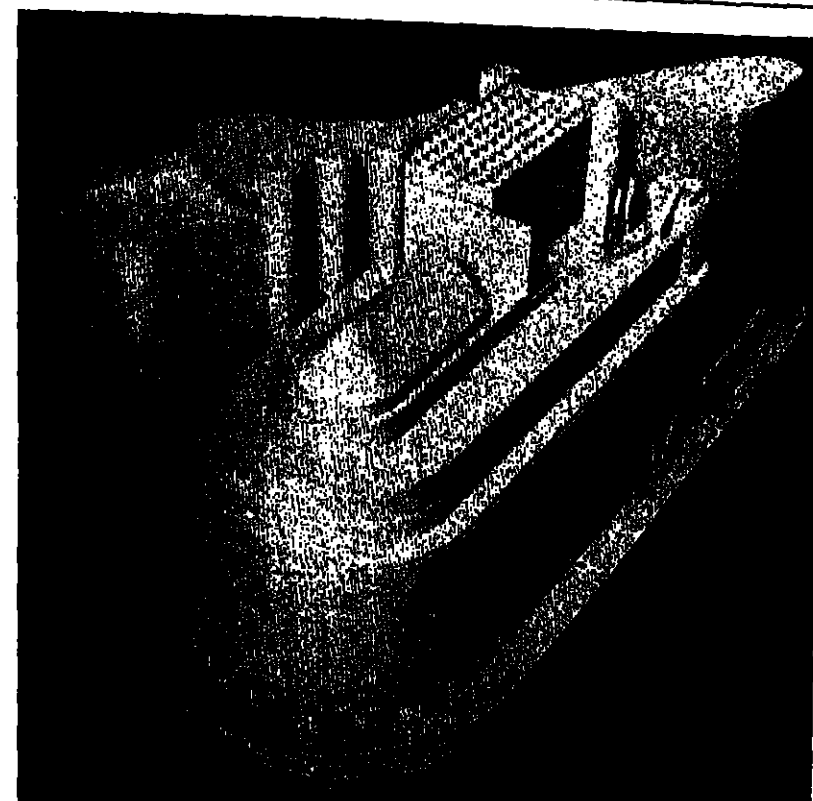
The sophisticated Stirling-esque elaboration of planning and massive elemental forms have been carefully and cleverly carried through in this proposal.



Crang &amp; Boake: upper ground-floor plan.



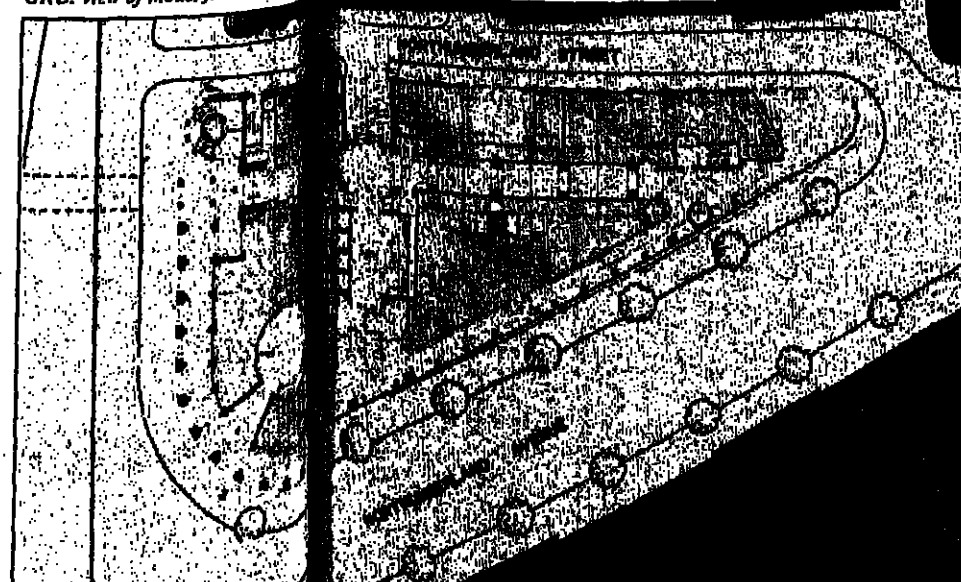
Elevation facing the Strand and the square.



View of model from above.



GRC: view of model from above (by Jeff Beckman).



GRC: ground-level plan.

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## Too vindictive by half

IF the Use Classes Order is changed along the lines suggested by the Government's Property Advisory Group, it will no longer be an offence to run a business from a dwelling, provided it does not involve employing more than five people in those premises. Journalists already enjoy the right to work from home, but it is something so far denied to architects, for no obvious reason, since a design office is unlikely to attract traffic or create a noise nuisance. While there are always some dangers in removing controls on what goes on in dwellings, because of the potential effect on neighbours, as far as office-type uses are concerned it seems a reasonable idea. And it is certainly the case that many architects either currently or in the past have worked from home without the knowledge of the authorities.

Under these circumstances Keith Roberts of Camden is entitled to feel rather hard done by, since his local authority is bringing an action against him for unauthorised use of domestic

premises for office use. The fact that he is a local government candidate of a rival political persuasion, and that in his capacity as planning spokesman for the local chamber of trade he has clashed with council on planning policy is, we are told, entirely coincidental. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion, nevertheless, that he is on the receiving end of some rough treatment because of who he is, and not what he has done. You might think that Camden council would have better things to do than to go around interfering with people who are harming no-one and merely providing employment in a modest way. The particular requirements of the law in this matter are more honoured in the breach than in the observance. The breaking up of residential and working premises has been one reason for the demise of some inner city areas; planning policies have all too often been adopted which start from the basis that all places of employment are by definition anti-social.

## The Editor's Comment



Happily there are now odd examples, both north and south of the border, where enlightened developers from public and private sectors are considering the virtues of the workshop with residential accommodation above. And of course there are many residential developers providing the sort of workspace and wiring facilities in executive homes which cater for the new breed of worker — at home in the office and in the office at home.

The real problem about property in Britain is not overuse but underuse. Minds should be set to bringing into the market all those empty flats above shops in the high street, the empty homes in both public and private ownership, the redundant churches and factories. Architects should be left in peace.



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## Embarrassed for profession

From Zsolt Moldan  
AS an entrant in the Grand Buildings competition, I must say I reacted with deep embarrassment on behalf of the profession at the final outcome.

The final choice is, to quote Charles Jencks on a lesser matter, a "pre-emptive restoration of a would-be ruin".

Although there is some validity in one scheme out of 300 entries offering such a proposal, the eventual choice casts a very sad, stultifying shadow on the positive growth of sensitive and creative architecture of current vintage.

I am sure no one expected a choice that was going to be "over the top", but the choice of an "under the bottom" solution must seriously question the suitability of the appointees in the handling of such an important competition.

My disappointment in the Cherry Garden Pier fiasco — being outright second with no

first, and seeing a joint third as the final promoter choice for undisclosed but obvious reasons — is now supplanted by a calm vacuum and a suggestion that future international architectural competitions be preceded by international assessor competitions culminating in a shortlist and final selection, under conditions equally exacting to those in competitions of the architectural kind.

Trafalgar Square is not a piece of relic pottery with a chipped edge that requires mending; it is a living, breathing organism whose dynamic components are constantly changing.

Would the assessors perhaps like to realign the dynamic qualities of Trafalgar Square with skiploads of horse dung and strategically located changing booklets to complete the 1890s look and smell as well?

Zsolt Moldan  
Richmond  
Surrey

## Enlightening figures

From Malcolm Nickolls  
BD is to be congratulated in producing its list of 100 practices (April 11). It is to be hoped that those firms that declined to give information concerning their fee income will be encouraged to do so in future editions.

It is also to be hoped that firms will endeavour to be as accurate as possible in their figures, which are of tremendous interest to the profession generally.

I was particularly interested in the level of fee income per member of staff. This ranges from £8,333 to £38,182, with an average of £23,222. One must question the lower figure, which represents a horrifyingly low level of income, but the average is a useful figure to serve as a benchmark to other practices in assessing their efficiency.

A stage further in this would be to provide a summary of the profit and loss accounts of a range of practices. While it is very doubtful whether many people would be prepared to put their name against this, it is possible that firms would be prepared to fill in an anonymous

pro forma to provide the information and this may be a further departure that you feel would be worthy of consideration.

Malcolm Nickolls  
Aylesbury  
Bucks  
This point will be considered. Readers should note that the staff figures related to this year, while fee income related to 1985 — but the spread of figures would obviously still be wide. — Ed.

## Stay small and grow big

From Heap, Laverack & Partners  
THE "league table" of architectural practices revealed some very intriguing figures, if the fees schedule is correct.

Analysis showed a remarkable consistency of earnings per employee among the 10 largest and those below 10 staff. In between the figures fluctuated wildly, but generally are well below the "big and small" categories. Indeed, it is difficult to see how one or two medium-sized practices survive at all with earnings less than £10,000 per employee — out of which, presumably, the partners expect a profit. One imagined slave labour and working in pig sties

had been eliminated, but perhaps not!

The old adage "stay small and grow big" would seem to hold very true, although competitive fee bids may perhaps be distorting the pattern, to the detriment of the medium-sized firms.

D C M Laverack  
Wallington  
Surrey

## Arch rival at Henley

From Christopher Leeming  
YOU report (April 18) that Terry Farrell's new headquarters for the regatta at Henley was "hampered by the discovery of a 17th century arch which had to be retained".

Leaving to one side the remarkable oddity that an architect with a strong sense of historical imagery could be hampered by such a discovery, your readers should know that the arch complements another on the other side of the river and that they may well form the earliest (12th century) extant remains of a bridge over the Thames.

Christopher Leeming  
Remenham  
Henley-on-Thames

## Strathclyde connections?

From Aileen Watson  
AS recently appointed relations officer at the University of Strathclyde, my objective in the next year is to create a database.

In order to achieve this, search is on to trace all alumni of the university in 1900. I would be grateful to graduates of the Royal College of Science and Technology, or the University of Strathclyde, who would get in touch with me, details of address, year, etc. and present occupation.

Aileen Watson  
Room 2.39, McCance Building  
16 Richmond Street  
Glasgow G1 1XQ  
Telephone: 041-552 4400 (ext 20)

## Errata

● The photos of ABK's station-on-Thames scheme, which were obtained from Donal.

● Developers Bredon architects Elsom Pack & Partners have obtained full planning permission for the scheme at Hammesmith Street, way, and not as stated last

## The jewel in RIBA's crown

From Richard Fellows  
I HOPE the RIBA will think again about the proposed removal of the Drawings Collection from Portman Square to Portland Place.

Without doubt, the collection, together with the associated Heinz Gallery, is a sparkling jewel in the crown of the institute. It is a marvellous resource and is one of the main pillars upon which the RIBA bases its boast to be a learned society. This is due in no small part to the efforts of the staff and those benefactors who have made it what it is today.

If the collection is to be drawn into the maw of Portland Place, the special quality that now pertains may be lost forever.

From what I can see of the plans (BD April 4) the proposed facilities would create organisational difficulties because of the stacking of spaces and the consequent need for extensive vertical circulation. Criticism

may be levelled at the amount of area available at Portman Square, but there is every likelihood that adjacent accommodation may become available shortly, and even with the best will in the world it would be difficult to match the architectural quality of the interiors of the current building.

It is, no doubt, an attractive proposition to create a showpiece for architecture based around the existing hq building, but perhaps more considered thought is necessary.

Architects often get carried away by what sounds like a good idea superficially, and as a lecturer I feel rather dubious about the way in which decisions are made in the Portland Place palazzo. Perhaps the opinions of those who have devoted themselves to the collection for many years should be given more consideration. It would be tragic if something of this quality were to be lost.

I believe also that the overwhelming majority of exhibitors at the RIBA, and it would not be wise to lose the goodwill of benefactors, which may possibly happen if the transfer takes place.

Richard Fellows  
Huddersfield

## Ensuring the best deal

From Michael Everett  
YOUR editorial comments insofar as they related to the Architects Benevolent Society, were unfair and harmful.

The society knows of no practice which has insured through the ABS Insurance Agency Ltd for sentimental reasons — practices have insured through the agency because for many years it has offered competitive terms and good service to its clients.

Between 1973 and 1984 the agency was highly successful in keeping insurance rates down; it was only when underwriters withdrew, and reinsurers — who had been losing money — put their rates up that premiums rose by unprecedented amounts.

There was only one reason why the society did not agree to sell the ABS Insurance Agency to the RIBA, and that was because the RIBA's offer was insufficient. The society did not spurn the RIBA; almost all the society's council members are also members of the RIBA and did not wish to see the institute harmed.

Nevertheless the society, being a charity, was bound by the strict accountability of trustees, and had to consider what was in the medium to long-term best interests of the society's beneficiaries, and to maintain or maximise the income of the society.

The RIBA's bid fell short of what the society's financial advisers considered was the value of the agency, even assuming that the RIBA set up their scheme in competition with the ABS Insurance Agency.

The RIBA's bid was £1.5 million, payable by instalments (which when discounted for inflation was equivalent to about £1.25 million at today's value); yet the agency made a profit of £410,000 in 1985 alone. Moreover, the institute's bid was not the highest received. The RIBA simply got its sums and tactics wrong; and the society had no realistic option

other than to reject the institute's offer.

You refer to the failure to provide protection for architects collectively — but in the last 10 years the RIBA has itself been able to achieve nothing to limit our professional liability and to improve the architect's position under the law.

On the feedback issue, as you well know, George Atkinson spent six months analysing the claims notified to the ABS Insurance Agency, and prepared a report, which safeguarded anonymity, for the RIBA/ABS liaison committee; yet you and the RIBA have persistently failed to acknowledge this.

Like this, the society and the ABS Insurance Agency welcome competition; nevertheless, the society remains confident that the agency will continue to attract the largest share of the professional indemnity insurance business through the sheer skill and experience of the agency staff.

Please understand that you do more harm than good to our profession, at this time, by publishing divisive and insulting articles.

Michael Everett  
Norwich

The computer can obviously remove much of the humdrum repetition in a project, but it can never produce architecture in the true sense of the word. The correspondence raises the spectre of a glorified computer operator and seems to further denigrate the role of the architect and the art of architecture.

R Gordon Smith  
London SW15

## Enablers and bureaucrats

From Ken Dixon  
WITH reference to David Atwell and Nick Wates "Infill" on community architecture (April 4 and 18), I would recommend your readers to watch "Diverse Reports", Channel 4, on May 7, which covers Toes (The other Economic Summit) conference.

I believe CA could be represented at the next Toes conference in 1987. As I see it, CA is part of a change in the climate of opinion which produced the green movement, alternative technology, small is beautiful, and so on.

The term "enablers" was discussed in some detail, which has great relevance to community architects. The conclusion was that an enabler was an entrepreneur with a social conscience.

This neatly solved a cultural problem we have in the UK for the term entrepreneur.

Martin Pawley, in an article in the *Guardian* last year, compared the work of Hackney with that of Walter Segal. To Pawley, Hackney was a community architect and Segal was not. I think he was in error here. Segal "enabled" people to build their own homes, so I would say he was a community architect, and an important one at that. Segal's system used standard size sheets, that is, they contained too little added value to make the system an investment opportunity to warrant its distribution through the usual commercial channels. Segal was a very good enabler but a poor entrepreneur.

Another way of looking at it is that community architects work to their own briefs. If you write your own brief on the basis of direct contact with the owner or tenant, then I believe you could be said to be a community architect. If there is a bureaucracy between you and the end user, then you are practising conventionally, ie you are taking a brief from your client who is usually not the end user. Bureaucrats would argue that tenants are temporary occupiers who should not have too much influence.

Ken Dixon  
Wembley  
Middlesex

## Impregnable Monkton

From Laurie Melville  
AT LAST I realise the value of being an acceptable member of the establishment, and being "elected" by one's mates to join other mates on this quango or that!

For this week, the trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund are being allowed to visit Monkton!

It was no surprise to me that the Monkton trustees intended to dismember this amazing place, with the remarkable Edward James now well out of the way.

Like almost every interested amateur, I have been unable to get through the net with which they surrounded Monkton. And now it may be too late.

When I last tried, the wonderful Mr Heymann, agent to the Edward James Foundation, told me that he was "unable to give consent for anyone to visit the property without Mr James' consent". But Mr James, he forgot to add, was incommunicado in the South American jungle at that time.

I only wanted to borrow his Salvador Dali "whoopie" cushion.

Laurie Melville  
London N16

## The real Roger Smith

From R Gordon Smith  
I SHOULD be grateful for the opportunity of confirming that I am not the "Roger Smith" who recently started the correspondence on the question of computer drawings being used for examinations attracting RIBA exemption.

Although my first Christian name is Roger, and I am informally known as Roger Smith, the surname Smith causes endless confusion and I practise under the designation of R Gordon Smith (Roger Gordon Smith).

As far as I know, there is no other architect named Roger Smith and it would seem that your correspondent might be writing under one, or more, pseudonyms. I should add that, some time ago, a Roger Smith caused similar confusion and I received comments from, I think, a lecturer in Birmingham.

As regards the substance of the correspondence, which had become rather trivial, I do not wish to be too much involved.

## Arrogant proposals

From David Backhouse, Architects  
WE read with incredulity the Price/Manser proposals for the Hampton Court fire (April 11).

When will these people ever realise that a glass box is not the universal panacea to all architects' problems?

We struggled for a relevant analogy. Perhaps a good one would be the replacement of the Elgin Marbles in expanded polystyrene.

Their proposals show arrogance and insensibility and are typical of the fatuous remarks that bring architects into disrepute with an image of irresponsibility, not only in the public eye but also in the world of art.

David Backhouse  
Christopher Bennett  
Adrian H Price  
Colin Campbell  
Liverpool 2

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## The BS47 Class 5 Amendment. If only they'd taken a leaf out of our book.

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- ii) Experience of production and on-site application in excess of 10 years in one and the same factory and maximum quality control. i.e. Fleece mixing of different parentage will not be by period.
- iii) Supply of the fleece to the underlay and to the top layer shall be from one and the same high technology source so as to ensure single source accountability. Nor should the source of supply or composition of the fleece have changed over a period of fifteen years.
- iv) Only virgin fibre specially formulated for purpose shall be used and no waste or off-specification textile fibres will be incorporated and no compatibility with bitumen.
- v) The fleeces used will have outstanding chemical and physical properties.
- vi) The bitumen used to fill and coat the polyester

Will the introduction of the new BS amendment relating to polyester roofing felts mean that the specifier, at last, will know exactly what he's specifying?

Sadly, life is never that simple, and it would be a mistake to assume that all Class 5 felts are now identical particularly as the Standard confirms the fact that they are not.

The features listed on the left, for example, would be a welcome inclusion in the new specification but won't be covered.

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## Landscape Notes

## Questioning status in Whitehall

ARCHITECTS have long been sensitive about their role in Whitehall. So have planners.

There are, they say, not enough of us, nor are we high enough up the ladder of seniority. It would be naive to suppose that the appointments of, respectively, Messrs Jefferson and Byrne are entirely set at rest this perennial disquiet, writes Tony Aldous.

The dissatisfaction of these two professions about their representation in government departments has — let us be blunt about it — a great deal to do with salaries and fees. But there are other more thoroughly professional, even altruistic reasons for it. And if architects and planners' under-representation in Whitehall is a raw nerve, then to the landscape profession it is a festering abscess.

So when the president of the Landscape Institute and three former presidents are moved to

get together and write to *The Times*, the motives are primarily to do with the nature and quality of design advice available in Whitehall departments — and the degree of its penetration. The argument runs as follows. The higher the status of your professional, the more likely his/her advice is to reach, and be heeded by, the real decision takers.

The actual representation of the profession in Whitehall is patchy. It is strongest in two of the departments which do most building, Transport and the PSA. Each has a respectable sized team and, in Michael Porter and Michael Ellison, professional heads of whom the powers that be do take notice. Elsewhere in Whitehall, for instance in the DHSS, which is a huge owner of property, the Home Office, even the main DoE, the landscape presence is tiny or non-existent.

One of the hardest and most frequently recurring lessons British landscape architects have learnt over the years is this. If you are brought in, or thrust yourself in, at the early stages of a scheme, landscape considerations can get in on the ground floor. They may receive something like the attention they ought to have. Brought in late,



you find yourself applying unsatisfactory landscape cosmetics to an architectural or engineering design already set and rigid.

Curiously enough, Porter's experience suggests that civil engineers, if you strike up a good working relationship with them, are more likely to take the landscape architect's advice — and implement it. In the PSA, word has it, Ellison's landscape team sometimes find that the agency's architects think they

know better. Landscape is, after all, just another aspect of architecture, isn't it?

## Coping with electricity

WHILE few people who live in north-east England or south-east Scotland are in any doubt about the overall benefits of

British Rail's electrification of the east coast London-Edinburgh line, some do have doubts about BR's manner of doing it. Their worry is chiefly about wirescape, or rather the structures that support the wires.

Though it seems only yesterday that the Government authorised the scheme, those electrifying folk from BR, working from the south, are already approaching Peterborough, while BR north of the Border (ScotRail) hopes to use the teams from the Ayr Line to make a start at the Edinburgh end. This is what moved a variety of amenity interests to meet at a seminar organised by the Scottish Civic Trust in Edinburgh earlier this month.

Organisations represented included bodies as varied as the CPRE and its Scottish equivalent, the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland, the Cockburn Association and the Northumberland & Newcastle Society.

On the credit side, it is plain that the design of masts and supporting structures for overhead electrification has improved greatly since the earliest stages of the London-Glasgow electrification in the mid-1960s. They are generally lighter, slimmer and less obtrusive. In York's listed station, incidentally, there will be no poles; wires will be suspended from wires.

On the debit side, the masts supporting transformer equipment still seem to amenity interests rather ugly and obtrusive; the proposed use of portal frames on the Durham and Berwick on Tweed viaducts threatens to be visually damaging; and there is a problem about raising overbridges to give clearance for the wires.

This is, of course, of wider than just east coast significance. It is highly relevant to BR's proposed Channel Tunnel rail link. At the time of the previous abortive Chunnel scheme, raising of overbridges — which already stick up starkly into the flat Kentish landscape round Paddock Wood and Ashford — was a particular focus of criticism. Hopefully this time they have acquired more sensitivity, and those responsible for any Chunnel/Waterloo overhead electrification will be watching east coast progress and learning from its successes — and its shortcomings.

## Industry chairman

ROBERT Hillier of Hillier Nurseries has taken over as chairman of the Joint Council for Landscape Industries from Jeffrey Bernhard, who has held the chairmanship since 1973. Chairman of the Rugby-based Bernhard Group of companies, Bernhard was BALI's first national chairman from 1971 to 1973.

At a luncheon at Agriculture House in London, he stressed the value of the JCLI's never having had a formal written constitution. One effect of this

This is the re-created rose garden, the 13th century Littleton House, near Newbury, which was bought by Peter de Savary last year, is restoring as a tourist attraction. Restoration includes the Elizabethan formal gardens, including a parterre and — perhaps most popular of all — the rose garden, a labyrinthine path.

Responsible for this re-creation was Graham Burgess, principal Artscape Design of Whiteley, Shropshire. He was, quite responsibly, as a partner of Moss Designs, for the Beatles Gardens, Liverpool Garden Festival, and is current work includes landscaping the new Trustee Savills headquarters at Andover.

Waters (Landscape) of Widsam, Surrey, reconstructed the garden, and have also done other work at Littleton House, laying paths, planting 150 extra-standard trees, and rebuilding formal pool and fountain.

Hillier, who is an HTA president, will serve for a year and then be followed by Landscape Institute nominee.

## Blackheath futures

MUCH has been written about the effects of the abolition of the management of Blackheath, less about its counterpart in south-east London, Blackheath. Local groups tried to persuade the Department of the Environment to do the logical thing — to take over and run it with Greenwich Park, which is adjacent. Predictably, of course, the Government's post-abolition strategy does not envisage transferring any part of its ratepayers' burden to the borough.

So two London boroughs, Lewisham and Greenwich, taken over responsibility for the heath, operating on either side of a boundary which cuts across this open space. In a run-up to the borough elections each has been making the most noises about the desirability of joint management committee, with user and amenity representation — but as yet there is no firm commitment.

To bring pressure to bear on the heath's new guardians (the Act of Parliament, they don't own it, only look after it for the public), the Blackheath and Greenwich societies held a joint meeting in the newly restored salon at Blackheath 19th century Concert Hall.

Two points were made with some force. First, Blackheath is dedicated not just for the enjoyment of the people of Lewisham and Greenwich, but Londoners and the public generally. How will rate-capped or otherwise constrained borough councils be able to find the money to manage and improve it as befits a regional open space?

Secondly, with traffic linking up on the A2 across the heath, and road improvements and widening to east and west, the meeting was adamant that half-baked road widening must not be allowed to further damage these precious 272 green acres. The Government, they said, if it does anything, must find the money to put a wide road in cutting and cut across, with broad bridges to cover, with broad bridges to cover, making it once more a unified and relatively tranquil open space.

## Scorpio

## Litigation in the air at Portland Place

WHILE the threat of a libel writ landing on RIBA secretary Patrick Harrison's desk still casts a dark shadow over Portland Place, I hear that president Larry Rolland has been keeping the lawyers busy.

Harrison's alleged remarks about the unsuitability of Rod Hackney for the UJA presidency, reported in the Peterborough column of the *Daily Telegraph*, prompted a swift response from the community architect. So too did a recent Hellman cartoon in the *AJ* from Rolland.

It depicted "your popular puppet president, Rolland Rat", declaring himself "sick and tired of that jumped-up Rodent Hackneyed". In veiled references to the achievements of recent predecessors — a concrete supermarket in a Regency spa town (Luder), a mirror glass office block next to a listed country house (Manser), and a refurbished Scottish baronial castle (Rolland's own home) — Rolland huffed and puffed that Almighty Rod would become RIBA president "over my dead body".

The final frame showed Hackney leading the Royal Institute of Community Animals out of No 66, which was splitting asunder. This proved too much for the usually affable president, who put the institute's lawyers onto it. Alas, they have now come back with their verdict — no way — and Rolland Rat, the cartoon character, lives on to fight another day.

## Privilege at its toilette

GERVASE Jackson-Stops' Treasure Houses (of Britain) exhibition at the National Art Gallery in Washington, which closed last month (April) proved to be the most popular ever staged there in its 45-year history.

But Robert "Shock of the New" Hughes, art critic of *Time* magazine, had this to say about the event: "Given the worship of money that marks the 1980s, it's no wonder that the spectacle of privilege enjoying its own toilette has become America's hottest cultural ticket".

The giant catalogue was even described as "weighing as much as a young salmon and as hard to hold". The Royal Academy might bear this in mind when it stages its own major architectural event in the autumn, celebrating the work of Rogers, Foster and Stirling. Presumably money will be no object, with the £300m Honkers and Shanks, £100m BBC building and £163m Lloyd's big among those works being celebrated.

But I gather that at least two books will be spawned, one the official catalogue, the other a treble biography in one volume of the three masters, by *Sunday Times* critic, Deyan Sudjic. ● Beaubourg has refused to stock copies of the Richard Rogers monograph published by Academy Editions in London last year. Why? The building does not feature prominently enough between its covers!

## Powerless station

BATTERSEA Leisure's plans to build an American style theme park in the centre of London is proving to be more than just a trial of strength with planners, residents, people of taste, etc.

Technical problems of the enterprise involve not just propping up the crumbling Battersea Power Station, but actually getting some power into the site. Instead of pushing out billions of watts, the shocking new use of the site requires a dramatic rejigging of the London Electricity Board system in order to pump the power in.

If the scheme does go ahead, it is going to cost up to £500,000 and require 10 substations to put on tap the power for all those entertainment concepts and eateries.

Meanwhile, the scheme's designers, Leisure & Recreation Concepts Inc of Dallas, have plenty of other fish to fry. I understand they are in talks for two theme parks in China.

## 'Dissent in CAG ranks'

DISINFORMATION is a useful stick with which to beat one's opponents into a pulp, especially if it has the effect of causing confusion and misreporting in the press, which can then be used to ridicule those responsible for leaking it.

In an apparent bid to divide and rule the Community Architecture Group, recent "fliers" emanating from the institute include Ben Derbyshire's resignation as joint vice-chairman (false — he has taken no decision), no funding whatsoever from the DoE this year for the Community Projects Fund, let alone the asked-for increase (again, no decision has yet been taken, although what RIBA has actually recommended remains confidential), and enough dissent in the group's ranks to topple chairman Ian Finlay from his perch (this is news to the group, which meets next week).

Acanthus, the revolutionary new network of conservationist architects, have chosen well with the appointment of a public relations consultant — one Sasha Lubetkin of Winchester, daughter of retired farmer, Berthold.

## 10 years ago

WARNING notices for materials containing asbestos are to be introduced on a voluntary basis — five years after recommendations that this should happen. A Health & Safety Executive spokesman said there had been difficulties in devising a suitable label. *Building Design*, April 30, 1976.

## Statistics



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# ISLINGTON'S ESTATE ACTION

Mark Swenarton looks into the background and achievements of a major programme to improve inter-war council housing in Islington.

To judge from the coverage in the non-specialist media, anyone would think Dr Alice Coleman was the only person to have given any attention to the problem of run-down council estates.

But while Coleman and her friends at Westminster City Council attract the limelight, elsewhere in London a borough of a political complexion diametrically opposed to Lady Porter's Westminster for several years has been pursuing a programme of estate action which is at least as worthy of detailed attention.

Since 1977 Islington Borough Council has been involved in a comprehensive programme of upgrading its inter-war housing stock, aiming to produce a quality to last well into the next century. Nor is this of merely parochial interest: Islington's housebuilding programme is claimed to be the largest in the country, and rehabilitation accounts for some 40 per cent of its capital programme.

Islington has of course long been a favourite target of press jibes as a loony-Left council, and certainly its housing initiative has not attracted the political support of the Government in the manner of the Coleman/Westminster venture (BD March 14). Lack of support from the Government does not mean, however, that the Islington programme is any less interesting.

On its formation in 1965 from the old boroughs of Finsbury and Islington, the London Borough of Islington had some of the worst housing in the capital; according to the Milner Holland Report on a number of measures of deprivation, Islington came out top. But falling population (from a peak of 340,000 before the Second World War to 160,000 now) provided a certain leeway for action.

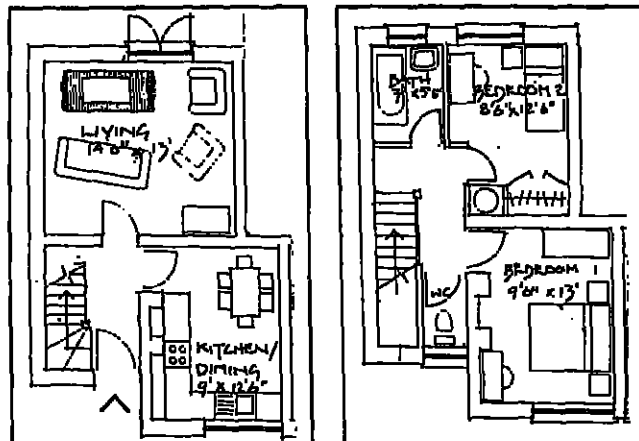
At first the new borough concentrated on conditions in the private sector. To start with the policy was slum clearance and redevelopment, but in the 1970s the emphasis switched to the acquisition from private

landlords of individual houses or whole estates of streets, which were then upgraded and rehabilitated for letting to council tenants. Included in this programme were such well-known 19th century developments as the Lloyd Baker estate and Milner Square (BD November 11, 1985). It was here, in the "street programme" of the early 70s, that the council developed the ideas about involving tenants in design that were to be taken up and extended on the inter-war estates.

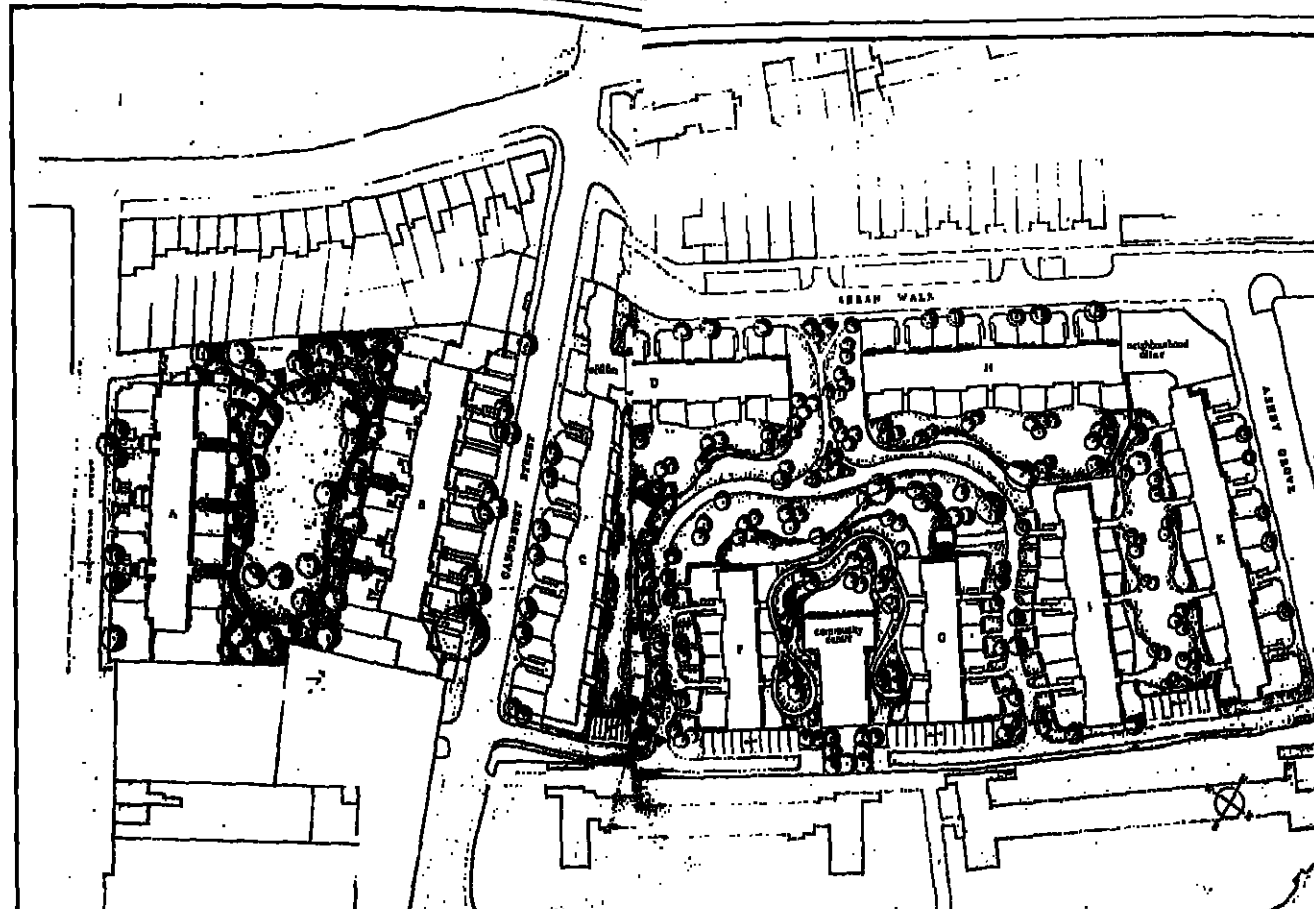
By the mid-70s the council's own stock was coming into severe disrepair. Tenants' associations demanded of the Lab council that the process of upgrading that had been applied to dwellings from the private sector should be extended to the council's inherited stock. At this stage the council owned and managed some 42,000 houses, about two-thirds of the stock in the borough. Some of the worst conditions were to be found on the estates built or designed between the wars; the old Islington Borough Council had been an energetic builder from 1920 onwards (including some estates built under the "homes fit for heroes" campaign), many of them built as four-storey walk-up blocks designed by local architect ECP Monson. In addition, there were the familiar five-storey balcony and staircase access blocks, including those erected by the London County Council.

In 1977 there were nearly 4,000 homes on 33 estates built between 1920 and 1948 (1948 being at that stage the latest date for which subsidy was available). This represented just over 6 per cent of dwellings in the borough. While the estates were for the most part structurally sound, nonetheless in terms of space, thermal insulation and planning standards they were seriously defective; internally, the flats were cold and with their tiny kitchens and bathrooms were way below Parker Morris standards. Externally they were run-down and depressing.

The council applied to the inter-war estates the lessons



Maisonette plans; two-bedroom, three-person.



Sickert Court; Shephard Epstein & Turner. Site plan showing landscaping.



Street elevation to Sickert Court Block II on Canonbury Street.



Re-establishing a presence on the street.

learned from the municipalisation programme of the early 70s, with the emphasis on keeping existing communities together, involving tenants in decision-making and achieving a high standard in the finished dwellings. Buildings were demolished only where tenants insisted that the estate was beyond redemption (eg Blythe Mansions at Crouch End) or where assessment of the condition of the block indicated that rehabilitation was not cost-effective. Otherwise the high structural quality of the interwar buildings, plus the cost advantage in favour of rehabilitation, pointed towards an upgrading of the existing fabric.

In 1977 the council drew up its estate action programme. Of the 33 estates built between 1920 and 1948, eight were to be demolished. The remaining 25 were scheduled for a major upgrading in a rolling programme, with the worst estates being dealt with first. The programme was originally scheduled for 10 years, but has since been extended, partly in the light of experience and partly due to difficulties with funding.

The extent of the construction work involved in the upgrading means that all the tenants have to be moved out. But by working on only one or two blocks on any estate at any one time, disruption is reduced. In a typical case, the first block to be worked on is emptied (the tenants being offered alternative accommodation on or off the estate,

according to preference), and then renovated to accommodate those occupying the second block; completion of the first block paves the way for the second to be emptied and renovated, with the process continuing until the whole estate is completed. Islington's programme is of special interest on three counts. First, in its comprehensive approach to the inter-war stock: unlike some other well-known examples of the upgrading of inter-war estates, such as Hackney's Lea View, Islington's programme aims to cover all its inter-war stock. So far, of the 3,100 houses in the programme, 1,393 (45 per cent) have been completed, with 446 (14 per cent) under construction and 1,246 (41 per cent) outstanding. Secondly, Islington's programme aims at producing housing of a high quality. The goal is not a temporary (three or five year) improvement, but an upgrading to produce something with a 30-year life. Overall, the space standards of the houses created by the programme are 10 per cent above Parker Morris; on individual estates the figure is much higher — 15-20 per cent in the case of the Tufnell Park estate. Taken with the external improvements (replacement of public space by individual and communal gardens, for instance) and the upgrading of the buildings, this means that the borough is able to produce council housing of a

continued page 16



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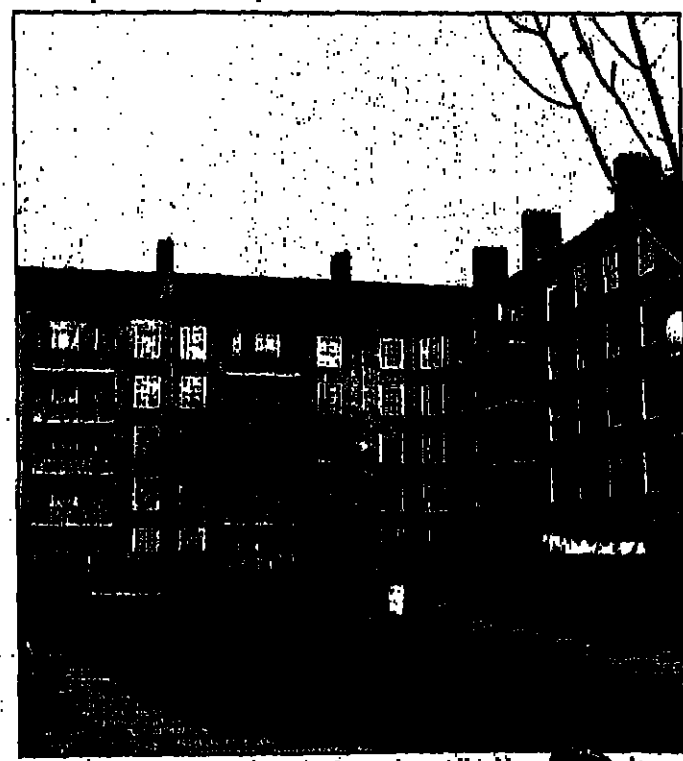
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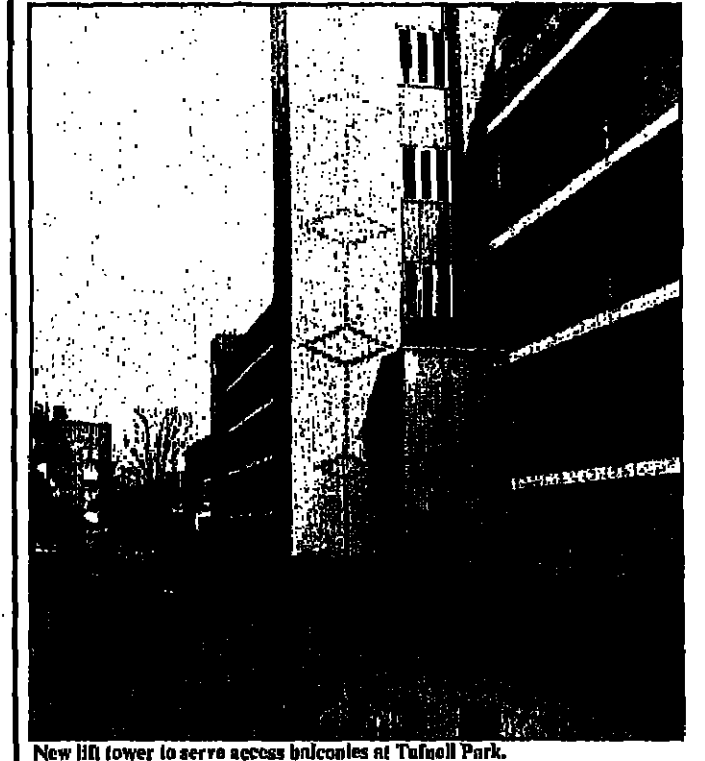
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Tufnell Park; Islington council. Landscaped court lined by gardens.



New lift tower to serve access balconies at Tufnell Park.



## Housing

## Islington's estate action

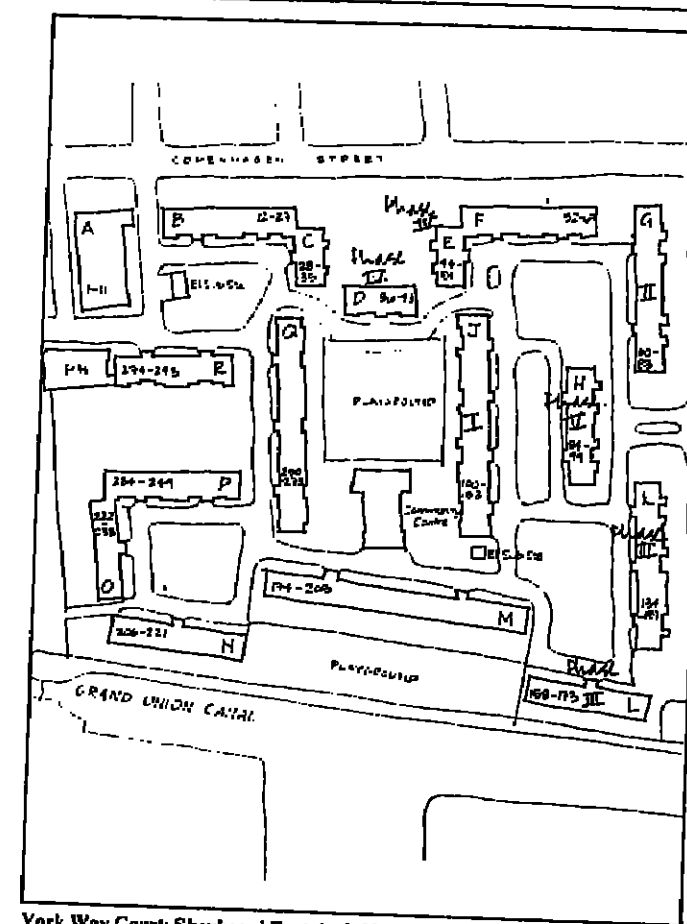
from page 16

far higher standard than usual. Moreover, this is achieved for rather less than usual cost: overall, the estate action programme comes in at 65-70 per cent of what it would cost to demolish and new build with the same mix as that provided by the rehabilitation.

Thirdly, the programme has developed a degree of tenants' involvement in design which is probably unique: by any reasonable standards, claims borough architect Chris Purslow, this is "community architecture" without the shouting. From the start, the involvement of tenants has been central to the programme. Each estate in the programme sets up a tenants' liaison committee or design forum, to which the plans for upgrading are brought at each stage for approval. At Sickert Court, for instance, plans for the second phase involved long corridor-flats which the tenants rejected; instead, the floor plans

were reorganised and an additional staircase inserted. At York Way, tenants were offered a choice of type plans for the maisonettes. In all cases the tenants have choice over the selection of colours and decoration and, where the flats have been pre-allocated, the particular requirements of the tenants can be taken on board at the design stage and the house designed accordingly.

While the detailed design is subject to the approval of the tenants on each estate, the overall design strategy is worked out by the council, in particular by the borough architect's department. Design work on the programme has been carried out both in-house and by outside consultants (with a gradual increase in the proportion undertaken by the former), but in either case design follows the overall strategy laid down by the borough architect. This strategy centres on three main elements: reorganising the units to elimi-



York Way Court: Shephard Epstein &amp; Hunter. Before rehabilitation.



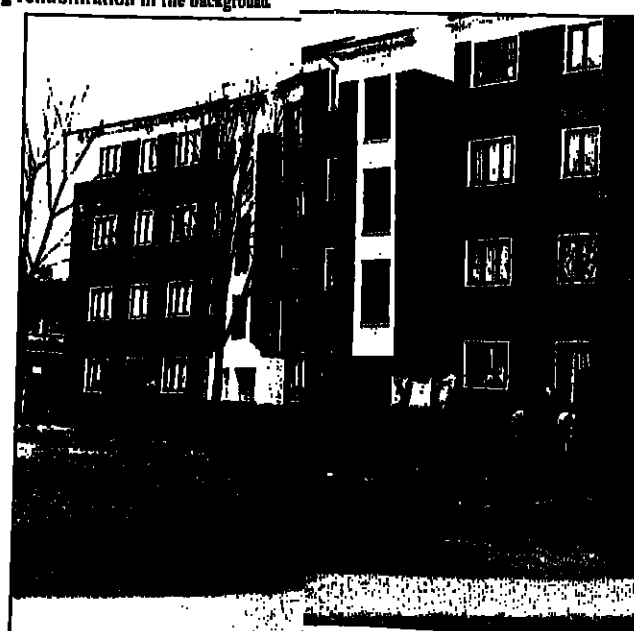
Phase I completed, with block awaiting rehabilitation in the background.

nate family units at upper floor levels and to provide improved controlled access to upper-floor flats; rearranging external areas to provide "defensible space" in the Oscar Newman mould; and replanning the dwellings internally to bring them up to present standards.

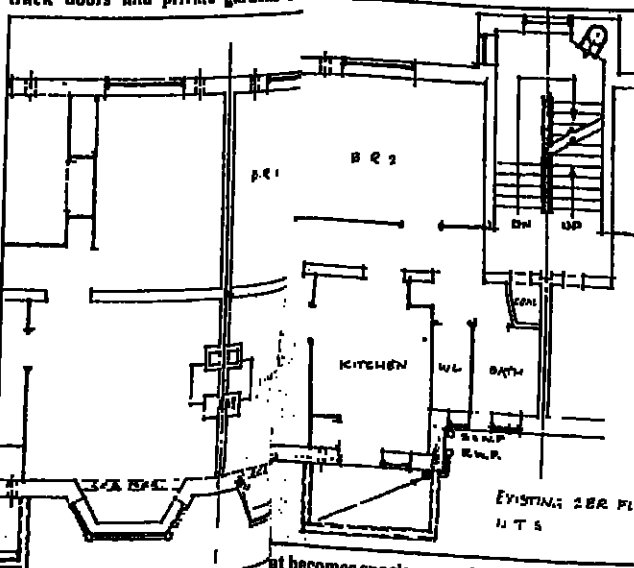
Most of the inter-war estates in Islington are either four-storey staircase access blocks or five-storey balcony access blocks, in either case usually entered from the familiar tarmac courts. In the upgrading the flats on the upper two floors are remodelled to become non-family units, while the flats on ground and first floor are combined to become family maisonettes. In consequence, the original staircases serve only the upstairs flats; the maisonettes are given individual entrance doors front and rear. Wherever possible access is moved from the inner, courtyard side to the side facing the street, so that maisonettes and flats alike are approached in the traditional manner from the street. The main staircases, controlled by entryphones, give access to two non-family flats one each of the upper two floors and form relatively private and controlled areas.

Changes to the external public spaces follow the ideas about "defensible space" which became so widespread after the publication of Newman's book of that name in 1972. The areas immediately in front of and behind the blocks become individual front and rear gardens for the maisonettes. What was previously the inner courtyard becomes a communal garden for the second- and third-storey flats, with access via the staircase lobby. The external areas of the estate, instead of being open to all comers, are thereby closed off to all but estate residents. In addition, what was formerly hard surface becomes landscaped; car parking (relegated to the streets surrounding the estate) is the only casualty.

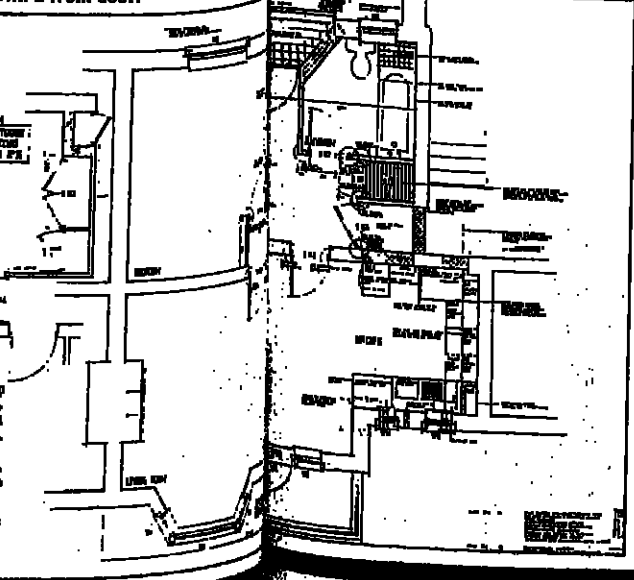
For the dwellings themselves, the main intervention is an upgrading to bring them up to (and in fact beyond) Parker Morris standards. Often the inter-war flats had only a small scullery rather than a kitchen and no adequate bathroom, and an inadequate level of privacy (eg bedrooms accessed only through the living room). In the upgrading, in a typical case a two-bedroom flat would be reorganised so that, in effect, the old scullery becomes the new bathroom and one of the bedrooms becomes the kitchen.



Back doors and private gardens on rear entrance elevation, phase II.



Above and below: Two-bedroom flat with a front door.



Kitchens and bathrooms are planned to modern standards (eg with the kitchen providing space and facilities for a washing machine and tumble-dryer) and fitted accordingly. Gas central-heating and improved insulation are also included.

Overall the estate action programme results in a remarkably high standard of council-house provision. At Sickert Court, for instance, space standards some 20 per cent above Parker Morris have been achieved for an average outlay of £27,000 per dwelling. It is in part this high standard that makes the programme attractive to Islington's Left-wing Labour council, although critics from the Left have pointed to some of the disadvantages, particularly to those awaiting transfer and those not already in council accommodation, of concentrating resources on the rehabilitation of existing estates.

Equally, it is the high standard of the finished product that makes Islington's estate action programme unappealing to the Government. Until recently, the council encountered little opposition to its programme from the DoE, even after the Conservatives came to power in 1979. But in the last year the attitude of the DoE has undergone a marked change, reportedly after housing minister Ian Gow visited Islington early in 1985 and was horrified by what he saw. On some estates where the DoE had already approved the global estimate (eg York Way Court), the council cannot obtain an uplift for inflation, which means that cuts in standards are being imposed for later phases of the estate. On other estates (eg Sickert Court) the project control system instituted by the DoE in 1981 is being used to force the borough to redesign future phases to lower standards.

The result on both estates is that the tenants' forum is being asked to select from a shopping list of cuts those items that they would be prepared to accept in order to meet these restrictions. It is fairly obvious that if this continues the council's objective of providing decent housing for its tenants could be defeated—a consideration which is hardly likely to have escaped the DoE.

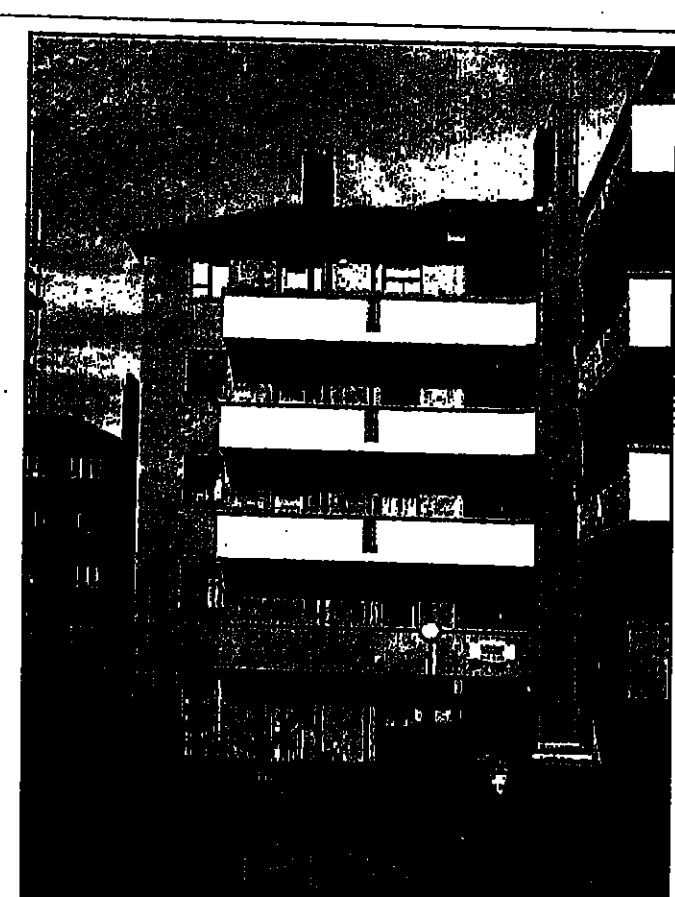
If the future of the programme is unsettled, what has been achieved so far is undeniably impressive. "From slum to palace" was the verdict of the local newspaper on the official opening of the most recently completed block in the programme.

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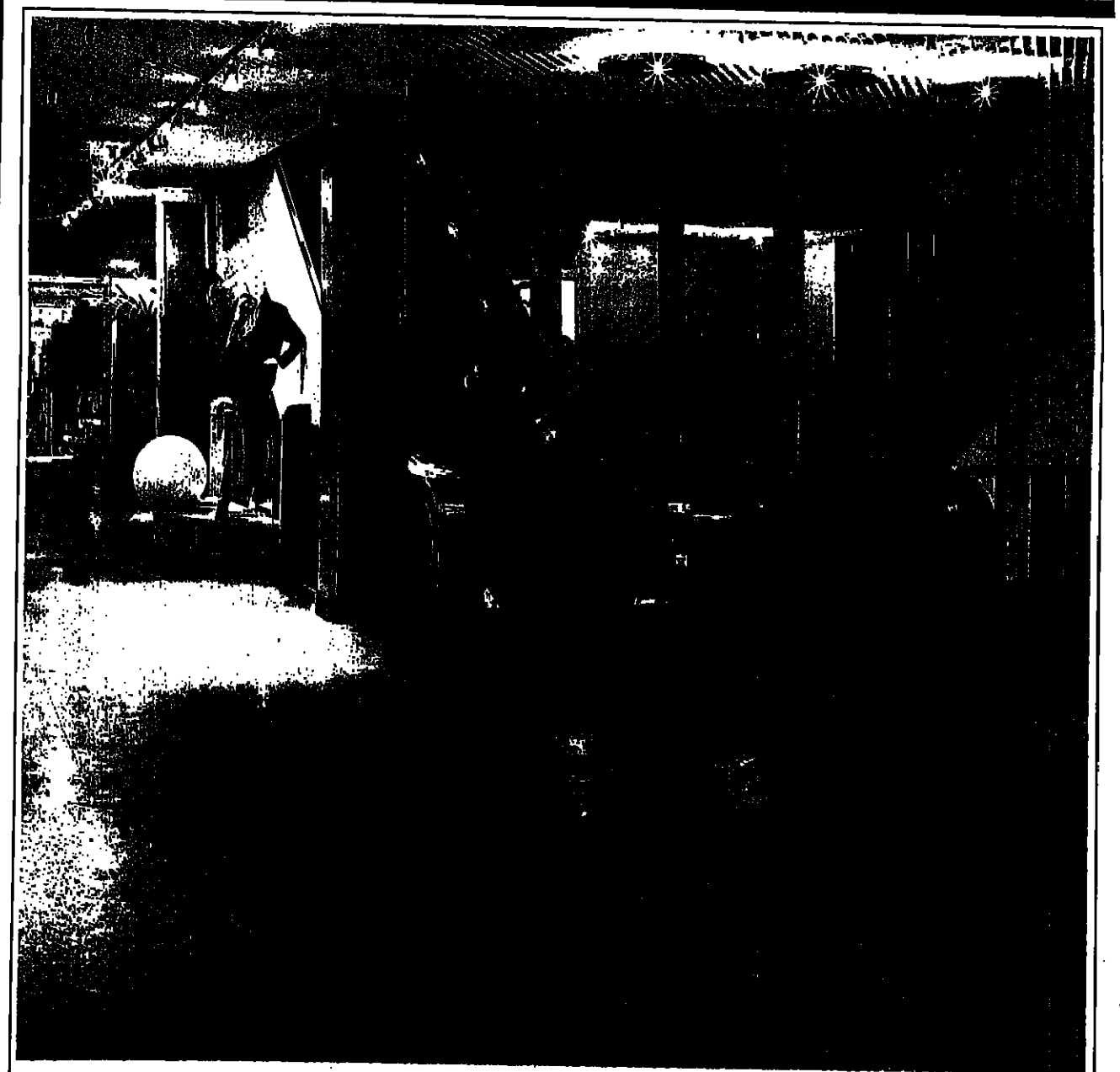
## Housing



Detail view of entrance elevation of phase I.



Brecknock Estate: Rock Townsend. Rehabilitated block.



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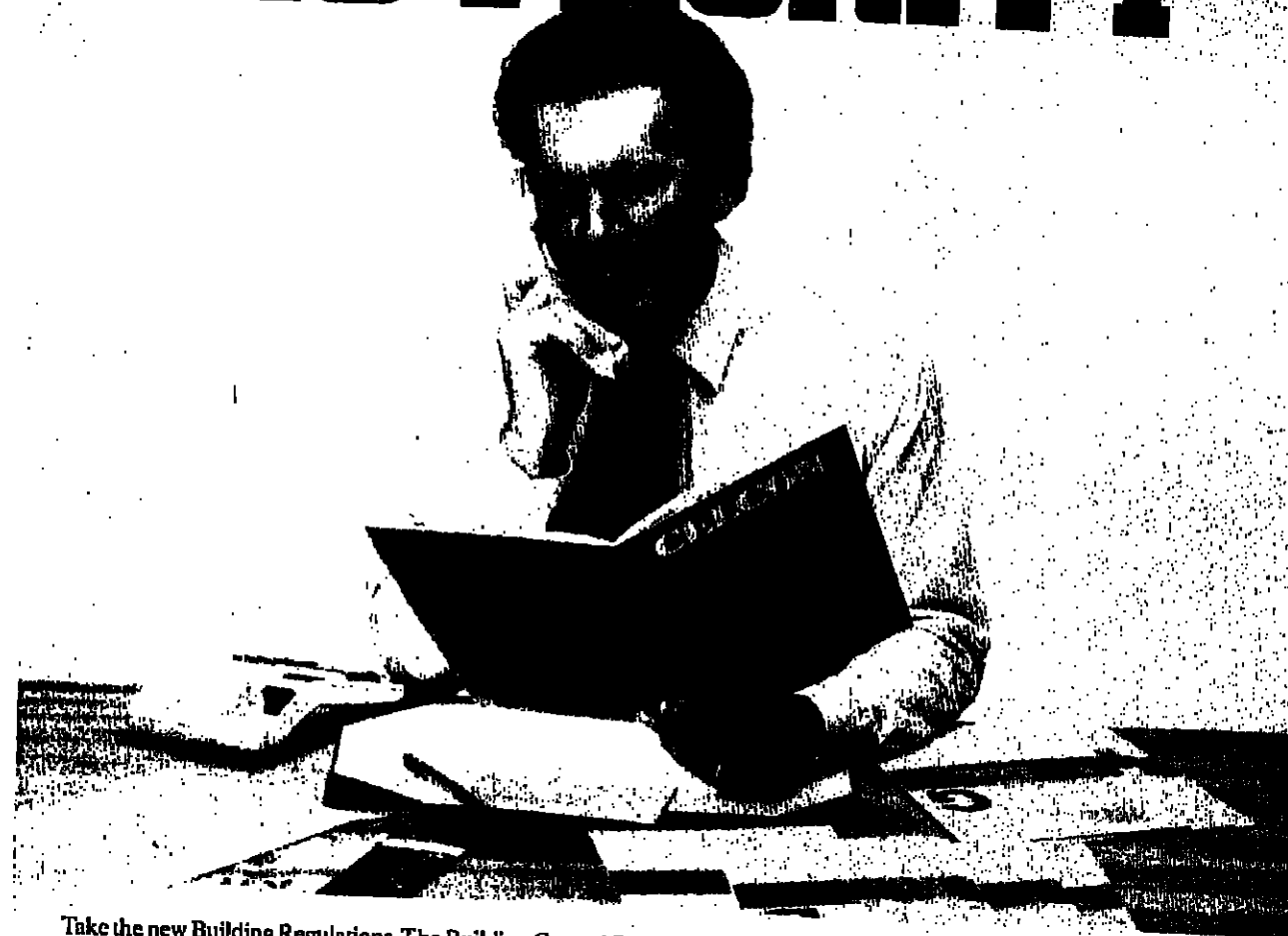
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## Islington's estate action

from page 17

programme. The headline is interesting for what it tells of the architectural task involved: unlike most preservation/rehabilitation jobs, where success is measured by the retention of original character, with the estate action programme success depends in good part on the existing character of the estates being replaced by something much more up-to-date. The architectural task is to find an appropriate way of making the estates look different and desirable to tenants today, without resorting to extraneous elements and devices which, while fashionable at the moment, would in a few years themselves look dowdy or passé.

Sickert Court (which prompted the above newspaper comment) is one of those with four-storey staircase access blocks on which the upgrading process seems to work best, but the success of the estate's

upgrading is due also to the sensitive work of consultant architects Shepherd Epstein & Hunter. The estate, built in 1948 to designs by Monson, comprises 10 blocks set in and accessed from a series of courts, hitherto used mainly for parking. SEH's design provides for a re-establishment of front and back by running a new Y-shaped access road through the main part of the estate, so that every block will have individual gardens for the maisonettes at the front and both individual gardens and a communal garden at the rear. On the smaller portion of the estate, to the west of Canonbury Street, access to the blocks has been changed, so that both blocks are now approached directly from the street and the erstwhile court becomes a communal garden.

The organisation of the accommodation follows the borough architect's guidelines. In the first block (phase 1), which was completed in October 1985, 24 two-bedroom flats were converted to eight maisonettes (with two, three and four bedrooms) on the lower two floors and 12 one-bedroom flats above. In addition, four new infill houses with three bedrooms have been inserted to close off the back garden area from the street. Phase 2 (completed in December 1985) originally provided 16 five-bedroom flats and now provides six maisonettes and 14 one- and two-bedroom flats. In each case the mix and special requirements given to the architects were based on interviews with the tenants who were to move there, conducted by the housing department.

At Sickert Court the exterior has been as fully upgraded as the interior. On the two completed blocks the parapet wall surrounding the flat roof has been removed and a new pitched roof fitted. The brickwork of the walls has not been cleaned or repointed, but insulation panels have been added on the flank of the original metal-framed windows to the dwellings have been replaced by wooden frames, necessitating a lowering of the sills to maintain the 10 per cent window/floor area ratio.

What impresses about SEH's handling of the estate is the understatedness of their intervention. To take the street front: the staircase forms the main visual element. At Sickert Court, phase 1, SEH have treated the staircase with admirable restraint, retaining the original metal windows in order to differentiate the staircase from the dwellings on either side and rounding off the top and

bottom with gentle monopitch canopies. Two infill houses at either end link the main block to its Canonbury neighbours. The mock-Georgian front door to the maisonettes, chosen by tenants, are a brave statement in decisions about the

Sickert Court is by no means the only impressive outcome of the programme. The same architects, Shepherd Epstein & Hunter, have followed a similar strategy at York Way Court, another Monson four-storey estate dating from 1948, again with impressive results. Near Sickert Court another estate, this time being upgraded under consultant architect David Ford Associates, the first block, nearing completion, bodes well for the rest of the estate, even if the external treatment (eg of the staircase porches, with their Wrightian extending planes) leans more towards the formalist.

The five-storey blocks, themselves less easily upgraded. Those with balcony access have the advantage, the addition of lifts is economically feasible (thereby overcoming the problem of flights of stairs), but many have a character so insistent that a transformation in image becomes almost impossible. At the Tufnell Park estate (upgraded by an in-house group) the retention of sash windows and balconies means that the success of the transformation more or less hangs on the improvements in landscaping. At the Hillrise estate at Crouch End (next to new-build houses going up on the site of one of the demolished inter-war estates), the in-house group has made good use of the unusual topography of the estate and of the opportunities provided by the buildings themselves. At the Brecknock estate, consultants Rock Townsend have adopted a dramatically varied colour scheme for the court fronts of the blocks as a means of breaking with the inherited image of the estate without introducing esoteric formal elements.

Overall then, the estate action programme includes considerable variety in visual treatment, within the overall design strategy provided by the borough architect. Tenants who were at first sceptical of what sounded like just another set of grandiloquent council promises now find themselves impressed with the outcome; from being estates that people wanted to get off, these are now becoming estates that people are keen to stay on. The cloud on the horizon — increasingly threatening — is the attitude of the political masters at the Dock and here the problem is that the more successful the upgrade is, in terms of providing a standard of accommodation the more it arouses Government enmity. It is a problem that Islington is going to have to overcome if it is to see its programme completed.



Bentham Court: David Ford Associates. Street elevation of phase 1.



Rear view of phase 1 with existing block.



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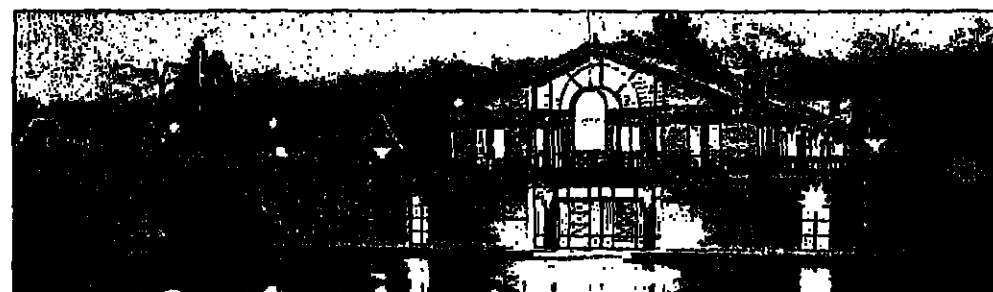
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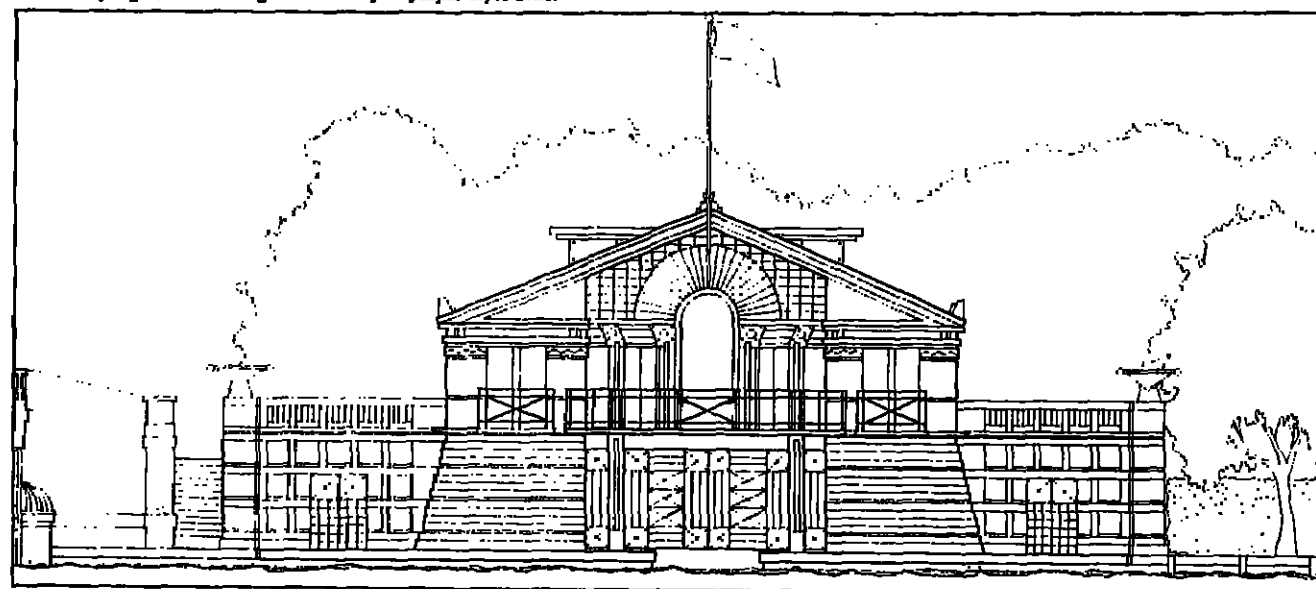
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Floodlit by night, the building is flanked by Olympic-style urns.



Elevation to the river.

TERRY Farrell's new Henley Regatta headquarters will provide a stylish new focus for one of the social calendar's high points.

Located in a sensitive area of green belt next to the 18th century Henley Bridge, the building uses traditional materials to present a powerful aspect to the town across the Thames.

The brief demanded a building on three levels, each with its own clearly defined function. Taking its lead from the grandeur of the bridge and the town's market hall, the design is conceived as a piece of civic architecture. The architects have used symmetry to convey this, although the soft curves of the balcony and window detailing break down the rectilinear austerity of the building.

The proportions of the structure were determined by the river-level storage requirements of the regatta and to conform with the scale of the bridge, while the design owes much of the traditional boat-houses of the Thames and the Arsenal district of Venice. Adam's Adelphi Theatre is referred to in the detailing of the pediment screen and capital columns.

At river level, a covered wet dock and storage space totalling about 558sq m was needed to house nearly 400 boats, pontoons and piles used to mark the regatta course each year. The dock running almost the entire length of the building forms its main axis. The storage area is contained within the battered plinth which derives its scale from the stone bridge. A 12th century arch discovered during early construction work had to be retained at this level. Over-

head hoists allow the boats to be lifted on and off boats in the dock and to travel freely across a 15m span to find a resting place. The warehouse area is gated to allow ventilation of the timber without it drying out.

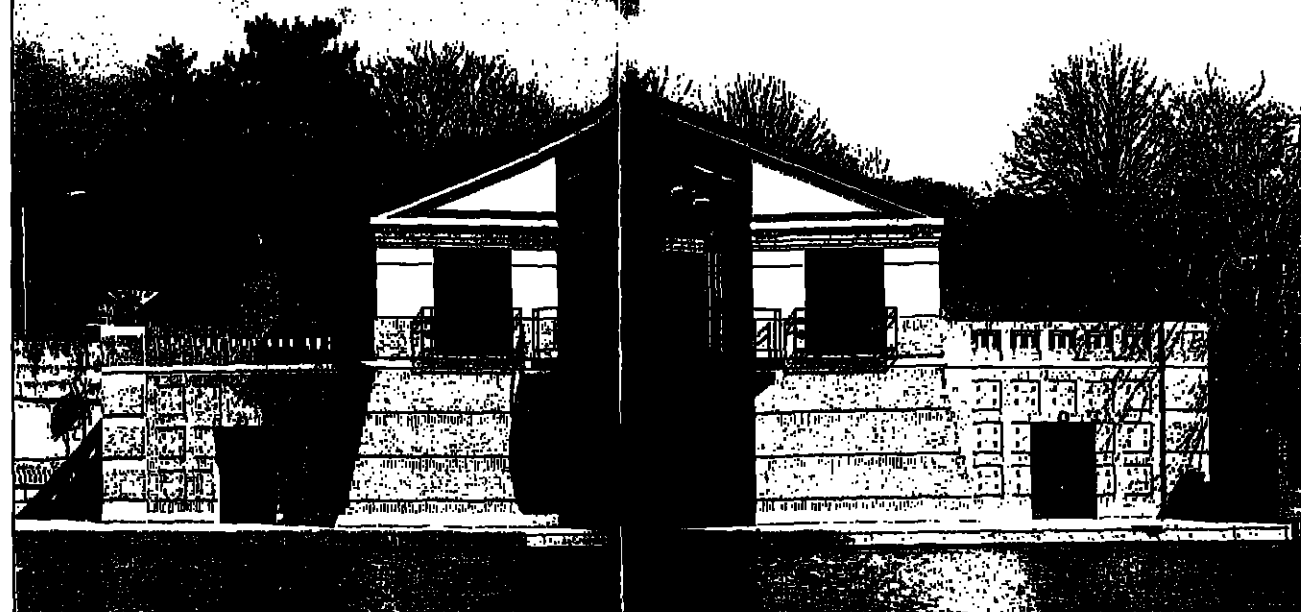
The regatta offices, housed on the floor above, are approached from the Henley Bridge. This elevation is understated compared to the riverside. It is the need to reconcile the exuberant with the more restrained elements of the building's challenges. This marriage has been achieved by the consistent use of images and colours. The regatta blue, for example, is used in varied tones throughout the formal areas and picked up externally in the pediment, giving a unified but friendly institutional atmosphere.

The building's entrance at the centre of the side elevation establishes a cross-axis which defies the dock spine. This entrance leads into a main reception which gives access to all the administrative rooms: badge office, computer suite, kitchen, offices for regatta staff and storage at the back of the building.

Although this floor responds to the rigorous geometry established by the warehouse, its flexibility will cater for changes in staff numbers and the need to shut off certain areas during quiet weeks. The offices are at the edges of the building to enjoy the views and natural lighting, with the primary elements — chairman and secretary's offices and the double-height committee room — across the main facade. The committee room leads onto a cantilevered exter-

The new Henley Royal Regatta headquarters has been designed to reflect the institution's status within the town. Fiona Gorman reports.

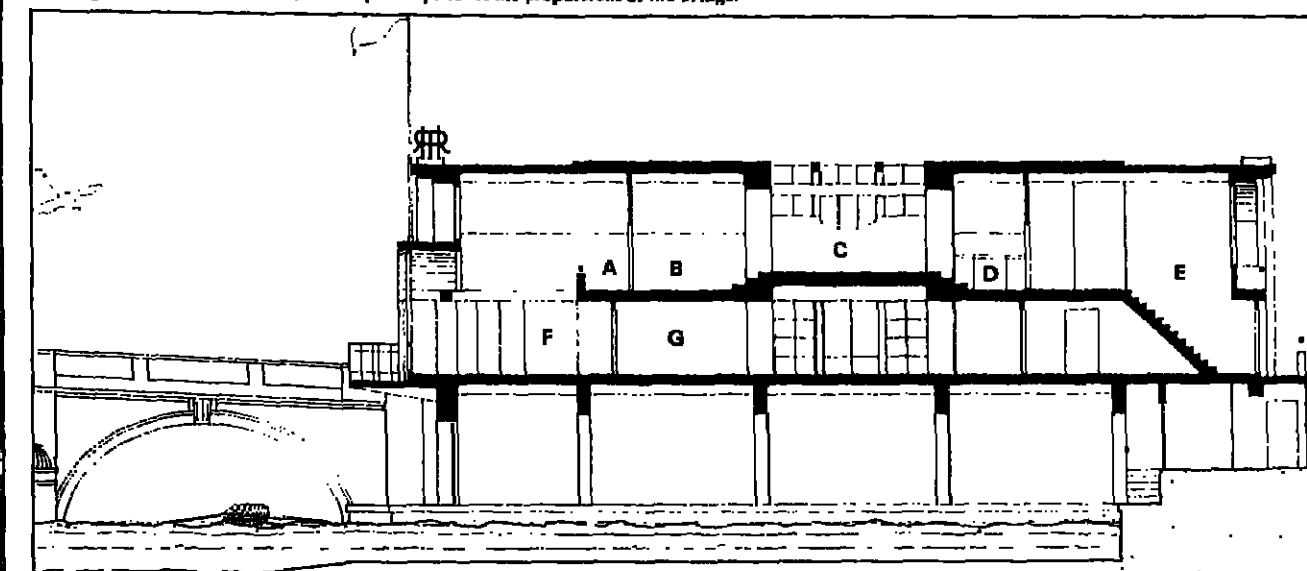
# HENLEY CENTRE



The headquarters turns an imposing face to the town, complementing the grandeur of the adjacent bridge. Photos: Richard Bryant.



Marking the entrance to the town, the complex responds to the proportions of the bridge.



A Library. B Study. C Living room. D Kitchen. E Entrance. F Committee room. G Hall.

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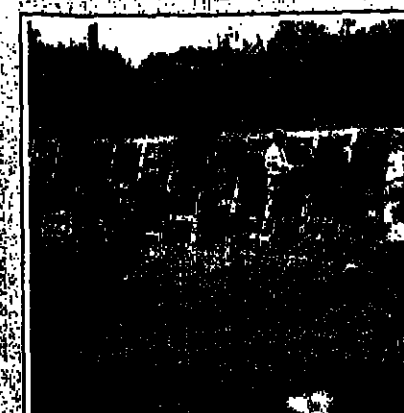
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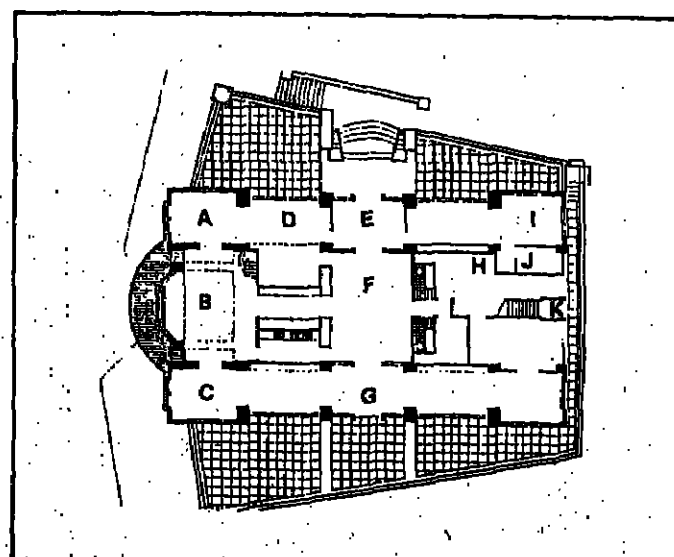
nal balcony projecting over the wet dock entrance gates. The offices can be opened up to form long galleries for entertaining or closed for private study. The services, kitchen, reception, crew room and storage, form the central area.

Access to the secretary's flat on the third level is at the back of the headquarters. A backlit lobby with bathroom and bedroom on each side leads through a small kitchen to a raised living area. Again the constancy with the dock's spinal cord is clear. Here the use of the warm domestic colours which feature in the brickwork and cornice provide a striking contrast to the blues and greys of the formal offices. Four main columns organise this central sitting area and a light, open feel is achieved by the rooflight in the centre ridge. This area commands fine views of the Thames on three sides, reiterating both the main and cross-axes.

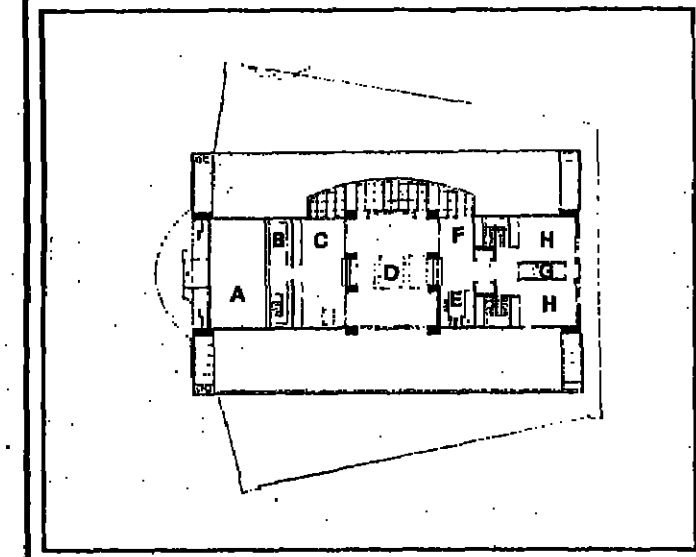
The sitting area leads down into a narrow study with stepped shelving straddling the main axis and creating a symmetry with the mezzanine library shelving beyond. From this minstrel's gallery you can overlook the committee room, view the town through the pediment screen or merely survey the river through the barrel-vaulted window.

The architects have used decorative and referential elements to clarify the importance of the headquarters. High integrity materials (Welsh grey slate, brick and stone) respond to Henley's civic buildings, while the change from the stone of the bridge to brick respects the more domestic scale of the new building. The town's strong

Client: Henley Royal Regatta. Architects: Terry Farrell Partnership. Design team: Terry Farrell, Joe Fager, Keith Williams, John Leherland, Ian Scott, Doug Streever and Laurie Porca. Main contractors: J M Jones & Sons. Quantity surveyors: Michael F Edwards & Associates. Consulting engineers: Peter Brett Associates. Building services consultants: Building Energy Partnership. Cost: £675,000.



Administrative levels: A Chairman's office. B Committee room. C Secretary's office. D Crew room. E Lobby. F Reception. G Office. H Storage. I Badge office. J Computer suite. K Flat entrance.



Regatta secretary's third-floor flat. A Void to committee room. B Library. C Study. D Living room. E Kitchen. F Dining room. G Flat entrance. H Bedroom.

# LEADING THE WAY

Neal Morris previews plans for Energy World, now on site and due to open at the end of August.

SAATCHI & Saatchi seem to be ignoring domestic energy saving measures altogether in the Government funded "Monergy" campaign. Perhaps the thought of having to re-work old roof lagging posters and add to the already heavy burden of tv double-glazing adverts put them off.

Luckily for the Department of Energy, Milton Keynes will provide a focus for energy efficient housing design this summer with what will be the biggest single event of Energy Efficiency Year — Energy World.

More than 30 developers are taking part at the invitation of Milton Keynes Development Corporation, building a show village of state-of-the-art low energy homes. There will be more than 50 homes to inspect, ranging from starter flats to six-figure houses, set in a shelter-planted, landscaped plot prepared by the corporation to give designers a head start.

Despite Department of Energy sponsorship, the idea predates Energy Efficiency Year, according to Giles Charrington of MKDC's private housing unit.

A few years ago the unit carried out studies on the pay-

back period for energy saving devices in existing low energy homes in Milton Keynes with a team from the Open University's faculty of technology. They were impressed with the results, which pointed to an average pay-back period of around 2½ years.

"By promoting energy efficient design we saw a way of capitalising on our experience of running the Home World exhibition, but in a way that would establish a theme beyond the exhibition period," Charrington says.

Energy World will not only be promoting energy saving products and design, but will be the

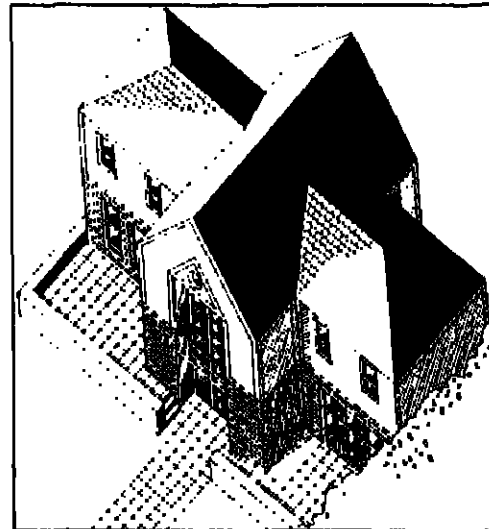
highpoint of the marketing push for Milton Keynes' next major development area, a 120ha "energy park". The plan is for a total development area covering the Knowlhill and Shenley Lodge areas just south of central Milton Keynes: housing for 3,000 people and employment for 2,000 with every building meeting rigorous energy standards laid down by MKDC. It is the most ambitious low energy development planned in the UK.

To ensure that standards are being met, the corporation has enlisted the help of Professor Peter Chapman from the Open University, who has been developing a more sophisticated

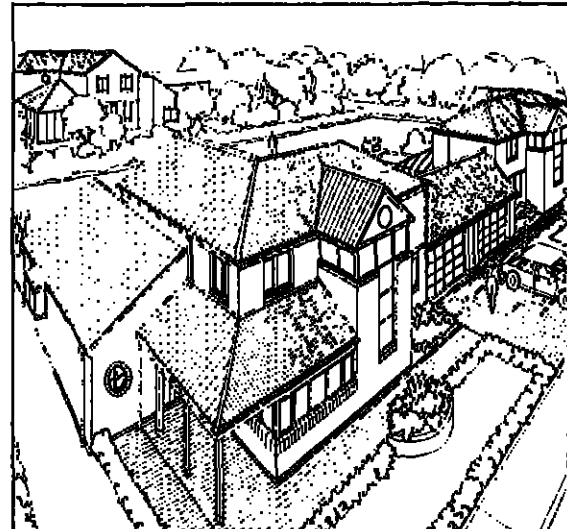
version of the Bredem (Building Research Establishment Domestic Energy Model) computer software system.

Chapman has modified his system so that when details of a proposed building's design, siting and heating systems are fed in, the project is assigned a rating on what is known as the Milton Keynes Energy Cost Index (MKECI).

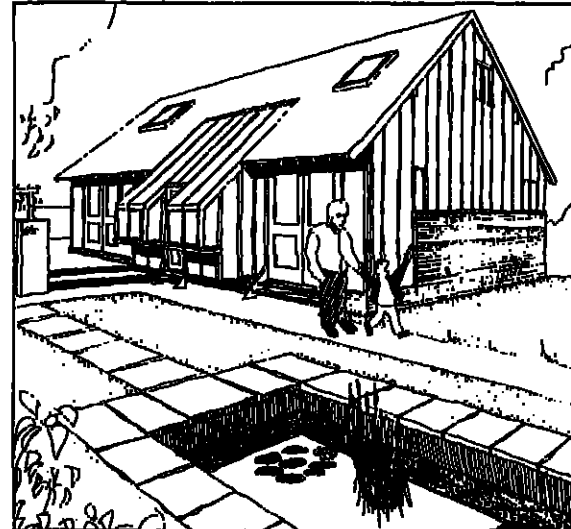
Given such a scale, the corporation will be able to set efficiency targets for development as the energy park progresses. For Energy World the highest permissible rating is 120. This is said by Chapman to be about 30 per cent more efficient



Derek Walker scheme for PHKingtons.



Hutchison Locke & Monk for K Phillips.

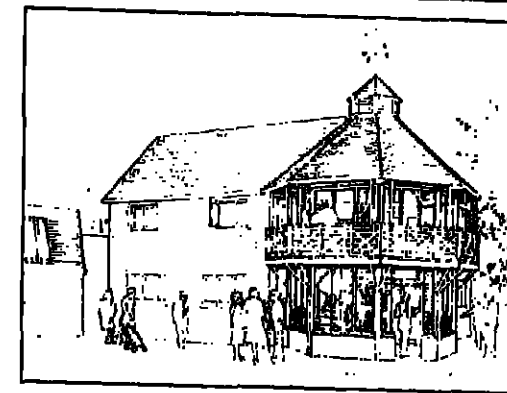


Self-build experiment by Constructive Individuals.

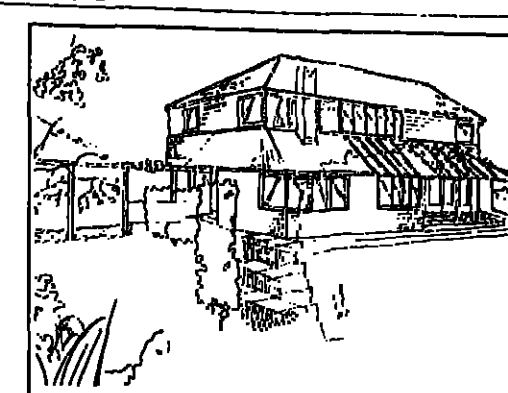


Kellih Horn's Round House for K Developments.

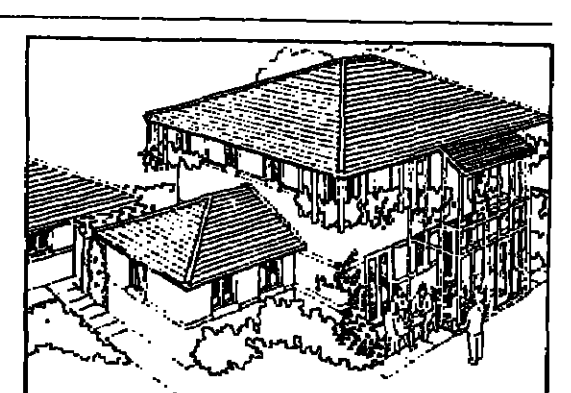
## Energy World



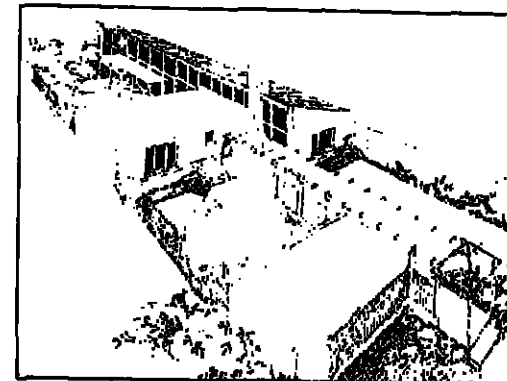
Michaelis Drandon Associates project for Salveson Homes.



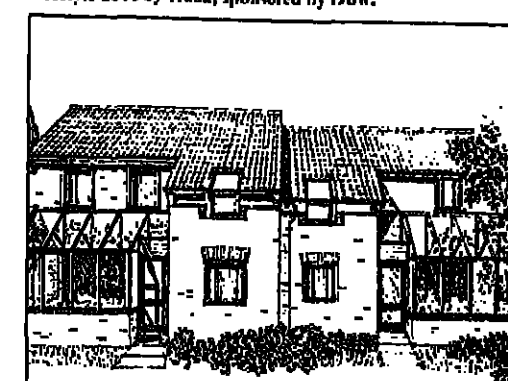
Lifestyle 2000 by Trada, sponsored by Dow.



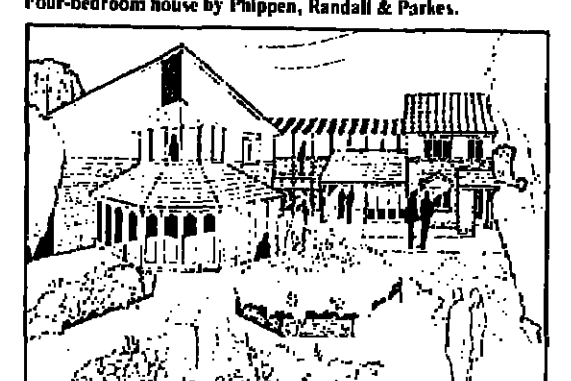
Four-bedroom house by Philpen, Randall & Parkes.



Fellden Clegg Design scheme for Haslam Homes.



David Tuckley Associates' scheme for Persimmon Homes.



Charter Partnership have upgraded Laing's standard package.

than the standard of the average new house built today, which would score about 170.

The rating is based on an estimate of the total fuel running costs per square metre. To obtain this, Chapman has assumed standard conditions of occupancy and use from statistical data: for example, the average adult's annual hot water requirement.

Visitors to Energy World will be able to relate each house or flat to its annual heating bill by simply comparing the index rating on display (taking the relative size of each home into consideration).

For the organisers the MKECI has proved extremely useful and the development teams are reported to have responded very well. "They liked the fact that they all had to jump through the same hoop," Chapman says.

Architects were also able to use the MKECI programme as a design tool. The micro-computer programme has a design facility which will translate design modifications into their effect on annual heating costs within minutes.

The only worry from the organisers' point of view is that developers will start to worry

about their position on the unofficial MKECI "league table", which is already emerging. The index does not reflect the different objectives of developers.

Many housebuilders are trying to demonstrate how conventional homes can be upgraded relatively cheaply, others are being experimental in their approach.

As would be expected, the volume housebuilders will be well represented and will be showing upgraded standard design packages.

The exhibitors fall into three main categories: the utilities

(solid fuel, gas and electricity), overseas companies (Sweden, Finland, Germany, Canada, Denmark and Poland are represented) and developers with a track record at Milton Keynes.

If any common design theme does emerge from plans submitted, it is the extensive use of high-performance glazing in south facing conservatories, acting as heat stores.

Many housebuilders managed to achieve a rating below 120 just by increasing insulation. Many of them got down to around 100, which represents a 50 per cent improvement in the total heating bill and an 80 per

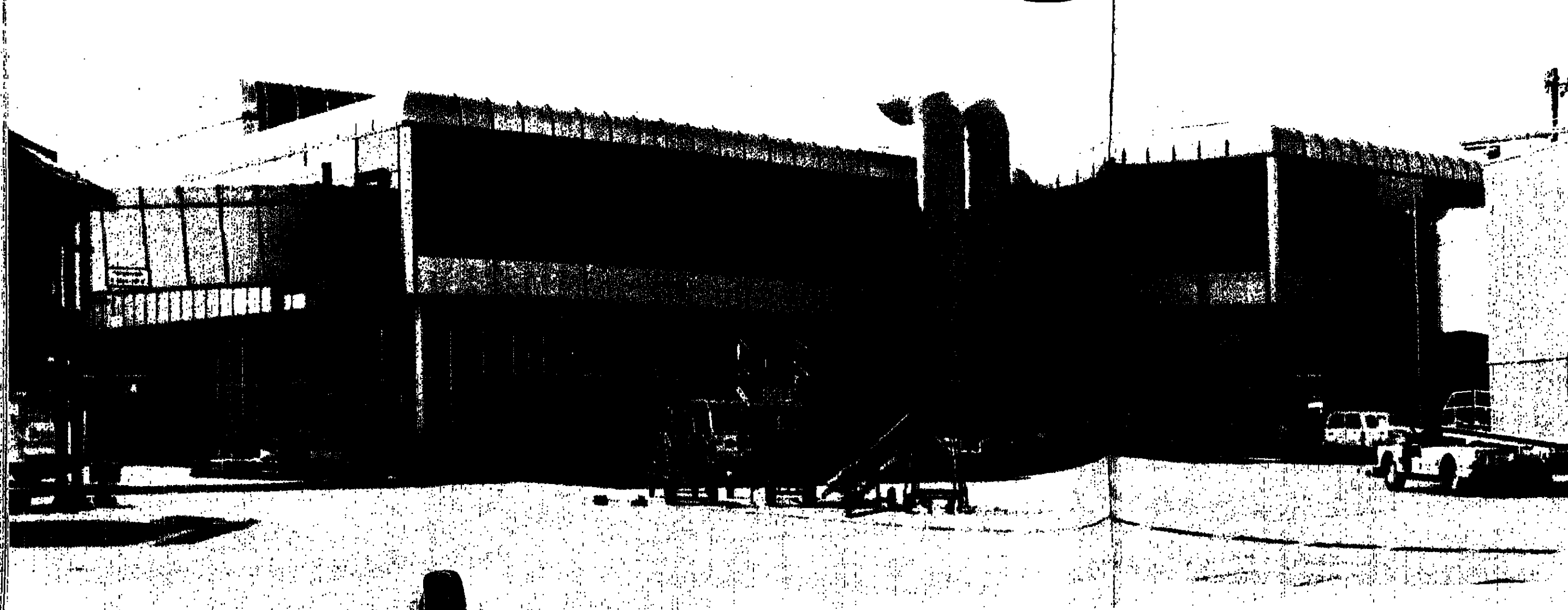
cent improvement for space heating, according to Chapman. The best are rumoured to be coming in around 50 on the MKECI.

Hardly any architects are flying their own flags at Energy World. It looks as if the architect-developer is still a pretty timid breed.

But at least one architect is known to have turned developer for Energy World and has mortgaged his home to do it.

If there was a special award for commitment to low energy design, he would have to be a front-runner.

# A runway success.



One of the major problems encountered when designing a new airport terminal is caused by the company it has to keep.

Space-age technology, in the shape of modern jet aircraft, could make neighbouring buildings look anything but exciting in comparison.

Which is why the British Airports Authority's consultants, Building Design Partnership, turned to Booth-Muirle when planning the facing of the new Terminal 1 Domestic Lounge at Heathrow.

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## Reviews

## Docks brought to life

By Tony Aldous

*Dockland: an illustrated historical survey of life and work in east London*, published by North East London Polytechnic with the GLC, distributed by Thames & Hudson, price £9.95.

LONDON'S Docklands is one of today's political symbols.

To some it symbolises the success of a firm central direction for development which uses public money strategically to pull in private investment, creating jobs, homes and public amenities. To others it symbolises the destruction of communities, the negation of democratic rights, and some of the worst aspects of a free market economy.

Between those two views a gulf exists; neither has much time for the other, and in particular the leaders of the Greater London Council found themselves unable to praise even the most clear-cut successes of the London Docklands Development Corporation.

It is therefore pleasing to report that *Dockland: an illustrated historical survey of life and work in east London*, one of the last flowerings of the GLC before abolition, is one of which almost everyone should approve. It represents the first fruits of the Dockland History Survey, established in a breakneck pace — eight months from commissioning authors to delivery of the index — in order to be out



Sugar sacks drying, North Quay, West India Docks, before the April Fools Day deadline.

It does not seem to suffer too much from this cracking pace — a few typographical or spelling errors, no doubt, but the overall product is excellent and very readable.

One can only agree with the editor, Dr Carr, when he says that contributor's "enthusiasm for the project seems to have been sharpened by the challenge of tight deadlines".

For many *BD* readers the 60-page illustrated gazetteer of buildings and sites will justify buying the book.

It is the work of Carr — although he received much valuable input from the GLC's admirable Historic Buildings Division, now destined to have a vigorous "after-life" under English Heritage.

The division's head, Ashley Barker, contributes a thoughtful "Foreword to the first edition", and one of his team, Paul Calvocoressi, has written a chapter on "Lost Buildings of Dockland". Other chapters on physical fabric include "Warehouses in Dockland" (Malcolm Tucker), the "Royal Dockyards of Deptford and Woolwich" (Philip MacDougall) and "The Work of the Dock Engineer" (Ivan Greeves).

But the book covers much more than buildings. There are also chapters on "A Dockland Community — the Isle of Dogs" (Eve Hostettler), "Dock Labour History" (Lord Howie), "Cargo Handling" (George Adams),

"Plans for a Museum in Dockland" (Chris Ellmers), and on ship-building, hydraulic power and much more. The context is set by a broad historical introduction by Professor Theo Barker.

Personal reminiscence, the life-blood of social history, is also featured, notably in "Reminiscences of a Stevedore" (George Adams) and personal reflections on the lighterage industry (John Jupp), as well as in a foreword by GLC planning chairman George Nicholson.

Nicholson was once an engineer on ships using London's now redundant docks (he has a photo to prove it), and his is a lively, if not perfectly balanced, contribution. One can agree with his strictures on the municipal shambles into which

abolition is plunging London, without endorsing his bad-tempered, blanket condemnation of the "undemocratic" London Docklands Development Corporation and its work — an attitude so blind to the LDDC's considerable achievements as to smack of sour grapes.

This well-produced, 304-page flexicover volume (295 photos, numerous line drawings and maps) is extraordinarily good value. It will be an invaluable tool and a delight to everyone interested in London's buildings and history; and under North East London Polytechnic's aegis the work of the Dockland History Survey will continue, offering the prospect of further updating and complementary editions.

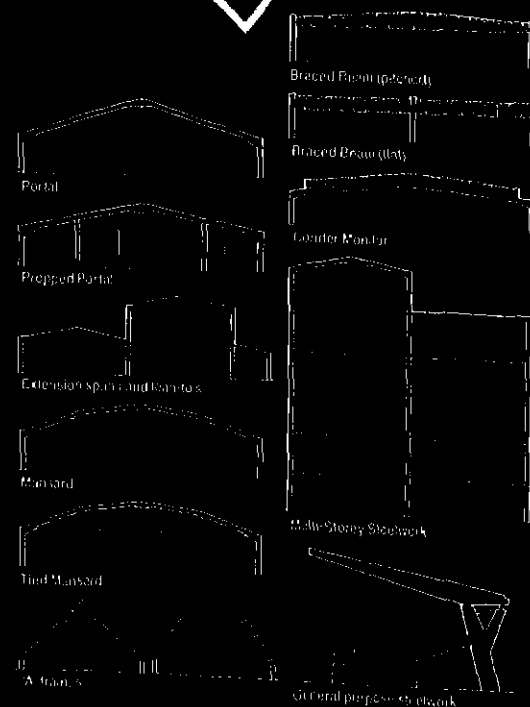


Widening the Cornua Road Passage, view looking west, 1958.

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## Reviews

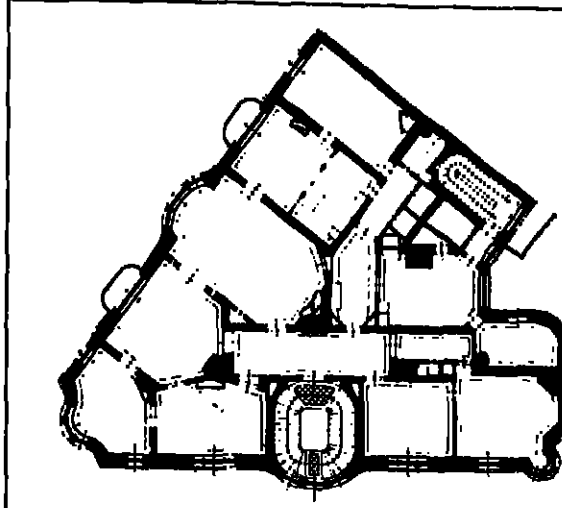
ELIEL Saarinen was a national figure deeply involved in establishing an identity for his nation. The Museum of Finnish Architecture exhibition recently held at the Glasgow School of Art — "Eliel Saarinen's Finnish years 1896-1923" — is a revealing display of his work before his departure for the United States.

The exhibition consists of original drawings and paintings, furniture, photographs and some building fragments. It is overwhelming initially as a display of brilliant draughtsmanship, not only architectural draughtsmanship, but also in fine art.

Some of the perspective drawings display techniques of draughting and sheer dexterity to make any artist jealous. The pen and ink perspective of the Parliament House (1908) turns a factual representation into a whirling composition approaching the drama of Munch's painting "The Cry" (1893). This is achieved by every minute pen stroke contributing to the picture's movement. None of the hatching is straight, but consists of a mass of curving interweaving lines all disciplined to contribute to the final

# THE MASTER DRAUGHTSMAN

Tony Vogt reviews the recent exhibition on Eliel Saarinen.



Plan for the Tallberg building in Katajanokka, Helsinki.

reflection and shows his favourite back-lighting being used to good effect.

But this is not an exhibition of only draughtsmanship; there are many buildings both built and as projects. In fact, Saarinen could well be the most prolific of the Art Nouveau architects, both for buildings and serious projects unrealised.

The earliest projects completed with his then partners, Gesellius and Lindgren, show a care for precision and professionalism unusual in so young a partnership. The plan of the Tallberg building (1898) is an excellent example of turning an awkward triangular site into an elegant set of apartments with every room seeming to be an automatic complete form that complements its neighbour.

In 1904, which might be taken as the high point of Art Nouveau, Saarinen produced his best-known competition winning design (apparently without his partners), the Helsinki Railway Station. The exhibition shows both the original design in a rather heavy national romantic style, an ecclesiastical fortress masquerading as a railway station, and the final result — a forward-looking combination of engineering expertise and a personal version of the "new style".

One gathers that the change occurred as a result of fierce criticism from fellow professionals about the backward-looking nature of the original design. One can but admire Saarinen for the humility and wisdom he showed as first prize-winner in recasting his design to meet what has proved to be justifiable criticism — can one imagine this happening today?

At this time a "dream" was also taking form — Suur-Merijoki, a house for an art lover with unlimited budget. Suur-Merijoki's interiors are represented by several of the best watercolours and show the influence of the Vienna Jugendstil and, undoubtedly, are those areas of the firm's work that owe the greatest debt to C R Mack-

intosh. The building represents the "total art" theory of the time, bringing together a large number of Finland's best artists under the benevolent direction of the architect.

The last phase of Saarinen work in Finland is taken up by his planning projects. These are especially interesting, because they have been little appreciated. Many of the drawings were only recently discovered during the demolition of an old building. As with many large-scale proposals, the likelihood of full execution was low; in Saarinen's case it has been almost non-existent due to the advent of the 1914-18 war and its aftermath leaving Finland as a free political unit but suffering from the worst effects of the depression. One therefore has to treat these as essays in the town planning ideas of the era.

The influence of Ebenezer Howard and Raymond Unwin is obvious. The pro-Helsinki plan of 1918 shows a fully developed set of interconnected satellite towns and realistic use of the green-belt concept. Had this been built it would have represented the most advanced piece of planning of its day.

Finally, there are several fantasy drawings — not the visionary world of Sant'Elia, but a building architect pushing beyond the limits of his clients. These take the form of massive axial compositions with boulevards, lakes, in fact all the trappings of the full-blown Beaux Arts, but the actual architecture is essentially his own "modern monumental".

Where does Saarinen stand among his contemporaries? Lutyens comes to mind as a man capable of covering the range from small domestic fitting to massive city plan, he had the fortune to belong to a richer country and so was able to see more of his efforts built. Mackintosh and the Viennese certainly pushed the ideas of the Art Nouveau further, but did not operate at Saarinen's scale, nor did they survive to rise again after the 1914-18 war.

Perhaps Saarinen suffered from the limits of his own country, for although he was successful in international competitions, he never obtained a commission from them. Consequently, all his talents were focused on his homeland, with the inevitable result that they were spread over many fields.

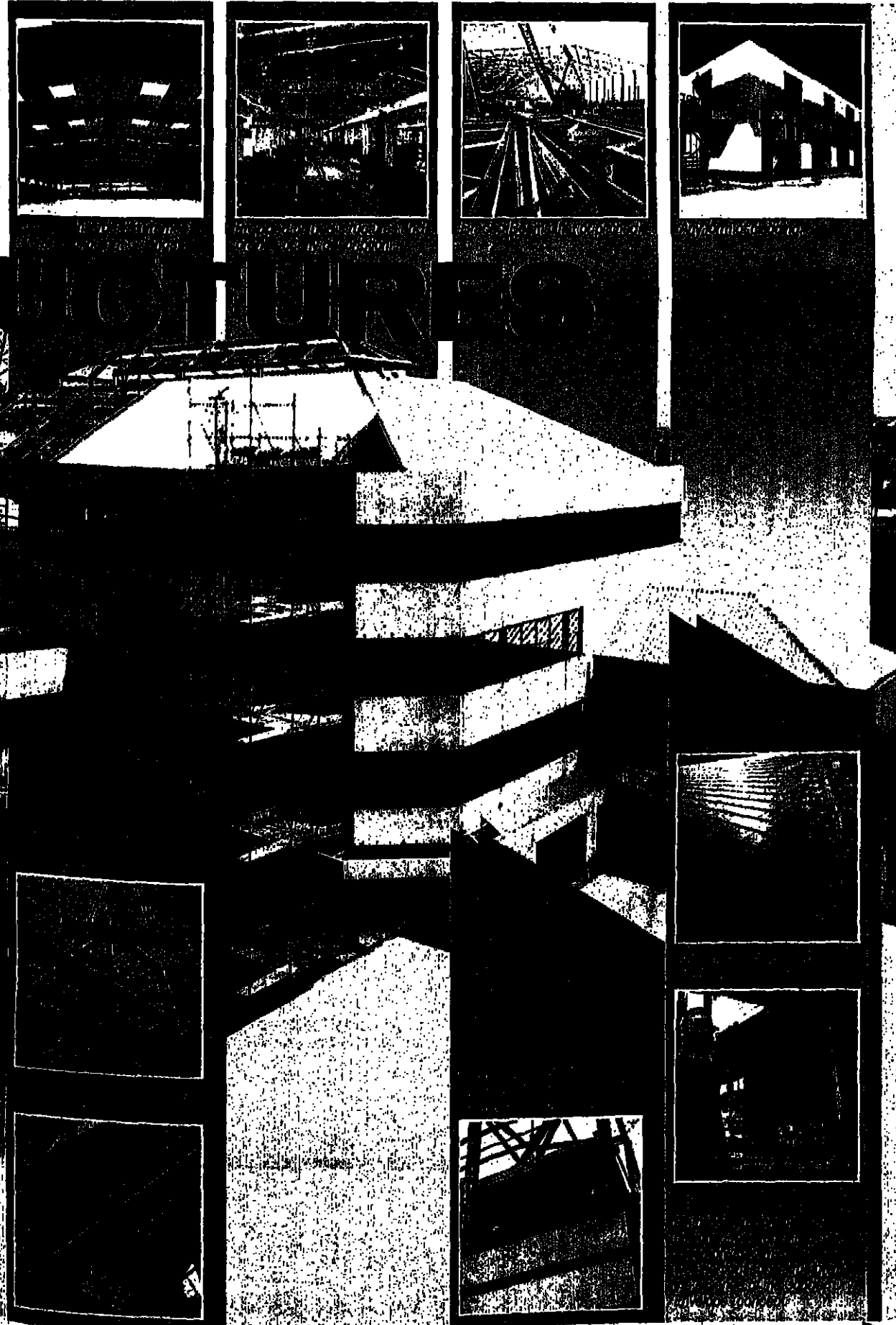
One cannot help but be humbled that after such a career in his native land, he could leave to carve out an equally impressive life in the USA.



St Saviour's Dock looking north-west, 1961.



St Mary Overy's Wharf, Southwark, 1882.



The library at Suur-Merijoki, watercolour by Saarinen in 1903.



Main elevation of Parliament House, 1908.

## New products

Compiled by Harold Hudson

## New Agrément system for windows under way

IN November last year the British Board of Agrément announced that it was changing its method of certification of new windows. This was as a direct result of a greater appreciation of the importance of the fabricator to the final performance of the window. The new scheme is based on the extrusion manufacturer first being assessed and given a BBA assessment report after exhaustive testing of the windows made from his extrusions.

These assessment reports form the basis of the Agrément certificates which are awarded to the fabricators of the window systems after they, in turn, have been evaluated by the BBA. It is hoped that the new method will help to maintain high standards in this expanding and complex sector of the construction industry. All previous Agrément

certificates issued for imported upvc window systems were suspended from December 20, 1985, hopefully to be reissued in line with the new scheme as soon as possible.

After this hiatus the BBA has just announced the issue of its first Agrément certificate under these new arrangements. It has been awarded to BKL Extrusions for its Scope Sapphire System. It is good to see the BBA has got to grips with this complex part of the products market and that it has recognised that, however good the extrusions or the design of the window system, the whole thing can be ruined if the fabricator does not maintain high production standards.

Harold Hudson

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For further information on the products on these pages, fill in and return the enquiry card.

## Access cover



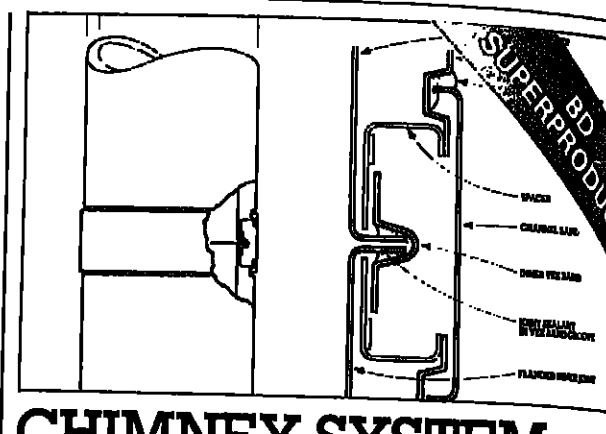
DUC TIL iron construction gives the Noroc RS Grade A and B access covers from Selflock a better strength to weight ratio than alternative materials. The cellular 100mm deep frame makes installation easier and less time-consuming. The Gloster seating — a feature of the Noroc covers — is self-cleaning and will not collect road dirt and debris. The Grade A cover and frame is covered by a 10-year guarantee and conforms to BS 497: Part 1: 1976.

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## Contract kitchens

FOLLOWING the establishment of a retail operation, Bulthaupt Kitchens has set up a separate contract division to assist housebuilders and property developers. One of its most popular ranges — the Conline range — seems to be particularly appropriate to this type of market, with its hard-wearing laminate surfaces, good design and colour variety. In all, Bulthaupt offers 29 ranges from laminates to solid wood, plus a vast choice of time and labour saving accessories.

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## CHIMNEY SYSTEM

DESIGNED to convey gases, fumes, particles and products of combustion from a wide range of engineering, combustion and process equipment, the new Europa chimney, vent and ducting system introduced by Selkirk is flexible, economic and capable of being installed by semi-skilled operatives.

Europa chimneys are approved for use in installations requiring a four-hour fire resistance and suitable for flue gas operating temperatures of 760degC continuously and 1,000degC in intermittent use. The standard system is intended to vent boilers up to 90kW capacity, burning any fuel, including gas.

A feature of the Europa system

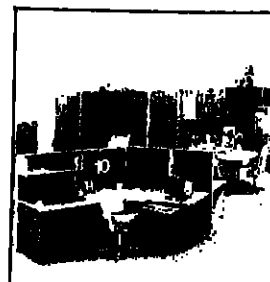
is its ingenious joint between pipe in which a gas-tight seal is made around a structural inner lining, with a 25mm air gap insulating annulus between the two walls. Initially the system will be available in 10 diameter sizes between 150mm and 600mm, with larger diameters manufactured special order.

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## Office furniture

ASHER Systems Furniture has introduced what it claims to be a complete answer to the demands of today's technology-based office. The Asher range consists of freestanding desks, screen-mounted worktops, screening, complementary tables, ergonomically designed seating, drawing office equipment, and complementary VDU furniture.

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## Vented soffit



RYTON'S Pre-Vented soffit boards have been improved to meet the recommendations of BRE Digest 270. Manufactured in high-quality exterior grade plywood with 10mm or 25mm venting gaps (depending on the roof pitch), the soffits now feature a 4mm hygroscopic mesh, glued and planed in place. Three thicknesses of soffit are available (6, 9 and 12mm).

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## PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE

The cost of P.I. Insurance has increased substantially over the past few years and the indications are that it will continue to do so in the future. All at a time when Architects in particular are under considerable pressure to contain their overheads. It is worth obtaining alternative quotations to compare with your present cover.

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## New products

## Pipe fixing

NO plug and no screw is required to secure the new Vulkocot Pop-in fixing for mounting cables, conduits or pipes on masonry walls. Simply drill a 6mm diameter hole, 35mm deep, and push in the device. Retaining bars on the shaft of this strong nylon polymer ring will bite into the sides of the drilling to ensure a high pull-out resistance. A variety of profiles are available to hold cables and conduits with diameters from 12.6mm to 57mm.

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## Drinking fountain



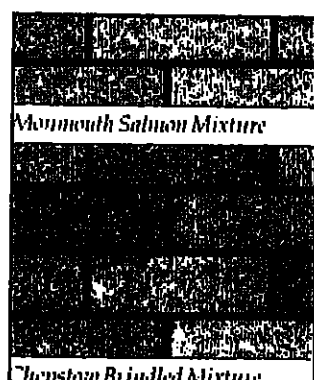
APPROPRIATE for many types of building, including schools, hospitals, offices and leisure centres, the new recessed StillCold Water Fountain, introduced by W M Still & Sons, is ideal for use where space is limited. Made from durable stainless steel, the fitting has been designed with all edges rounded and no protrusions for complete safety. The fountain can be fitted with a bubbler for direct drinking or a carafe filler for cups, glasses and jugs.

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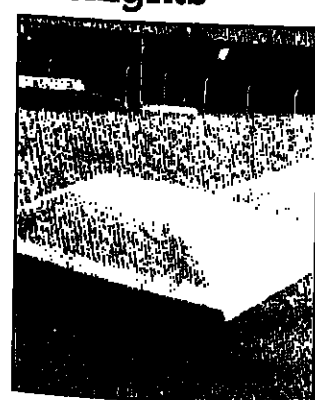
## Concrete bricks

ARC Powell Duffryn Bricks has introduced a new multi-coloured range of bricks which takes advantage of a new manufacturing technique developed by the company. Bright colours and natural golden or white aggregates are accurately blended so that up to four colours can be intermingled throughout the brick. Special shapes can be produced on short delivery and a new data sheet is available which gives details of the new range.

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## Rooflights



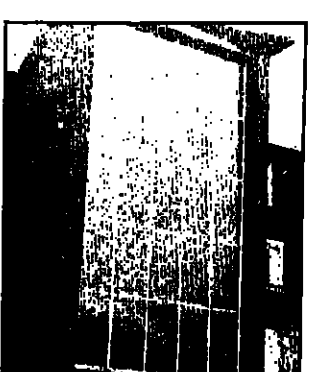
OFFERING a low-cost alternative to acrylic, pvc and polycarbonate rooflights, Warwick & Bailey is offering rooflights made in translucent grp. Manufactured in dome or pyramidal formats and to any size between 610mm square and 2,440mm x 1,220mm, the Warwick & Bailey units are tough, durable, inexpensive and available on a short delivery basis anywhere in the UK.

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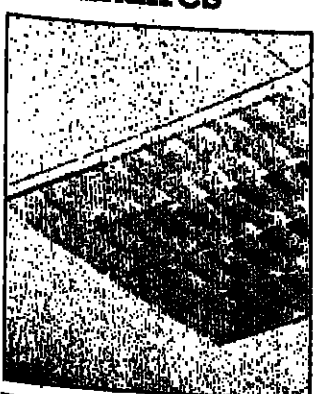
## Secure glazing

VANDALITE is a range of security glazing materials produced by Warwick & Bailey which are said to produce a cost effective solution to glazing in areas of high vandalism. This translucent material will allow up to 80 per cent light transmission and contains a galvanised steel mesh to render it shatterproof. It is not weakened by solvents and can be cleaned using cellulose thinners. It has excellent scratch resistance.

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SYLVANIA'S Multiline modular fluorescent luminaires have been improved by the launch of a very competitive range of recessed fittings in 300mm and 600mm versions for exposed or concealed tee ceilings. Designed for quick and easy installation, attachment is simply a matter of adjusting four spring-loaded adjustable arms. Multiline luminaires are intended for use with energy-saving lamps and the high efficiency reflector has been designed to give the user optimum lighting at lowest cost.

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PROOF and hardwearing, Langley London's Sinzig unglazed mosaic is intended for use in internal or external situations and, as a floor finish, it is particularly suited to those heavy wear locations like airports, concourses, supermarkets etc. Each mosaic piece is 50 x 50 x 5.4mm in size and these are supplied, mounted on sheets 60 pieces to a sheet (10 x 6 pieces) measuring 523mm x 311mm. There is a choice of three colourways — red/yellow, brown/yellow and beige flamed.

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## Look no water



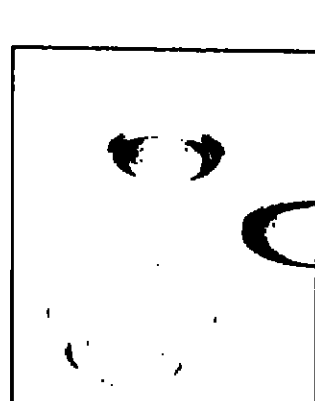
RETURNING in a hi-tech way to the days of the earth closet, Waterwise has been appointed distributor in this country for the Bioloa (otherwise known as the Humus toilet) from the Sanitation of Sweden. This toilet uses a composting system, without chemicals or flushing. The process takes place in a compartment filled with dry peat, which is emptied at intervals varying from one month to one year, depending on use. Surplus liquid evaporates and is removed through the ventilation system.

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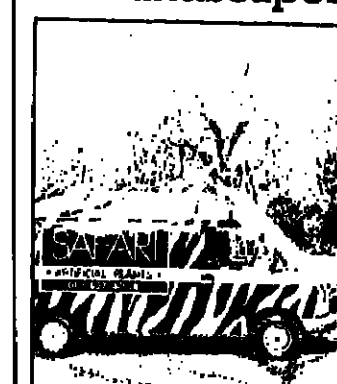
## Downlighters

FIVE new downlighters for commercial or domestic locations have been introduced by Osram-GEC. Three are fully recessed; two are eyeball fittings, and each will accept 40W (RS0), 100W (R080), 100W (R45) and 150W (PAR 36) reflector lamps. The fittings are supplied in white or brass finishes and their four-way terminal blocks have provision for looping or switching. All wires are enclosed within a secure terminal housing.

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## Silk landscapes



ONLY recently launched, Safari is a new company which intends to specialise in satisfying the increasing demand for polyester silk alternative landscaping. Where conditions do not allow for "live" planting, Safari will provide interiorscapes of all sizes up to impressive afforestation containing trees up to 8m high with polyester-silk leaves. Safari is an approved Stoude floralsilk contractor.

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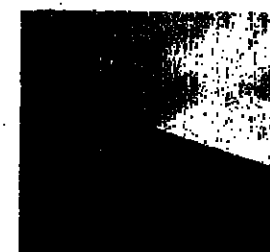


## Trocal — mixing Business with Leisure.

Trocal Roofing is specified for buildings used for business and in buildings used for leisure.

Major business premises for Renault, Jaguar Cars, Tesco and more have been roofed in Trocal. Many leisure centres including the famous Queens Tennis Club have also been specified in Trocal.

Specifiers have found Trocal's unique benefits offer



the solution to roofing large span areas — whether for business or leisure.

It's been used successfully for over 20 years worldwide and for 12 years here in the UK.

For further details contact Dynamit Nobel (UK) Ltd  
Gateway House 302/8 High St.  
Slough SL1 1HF  
or telephone (0753) 71851

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PVC Roofing

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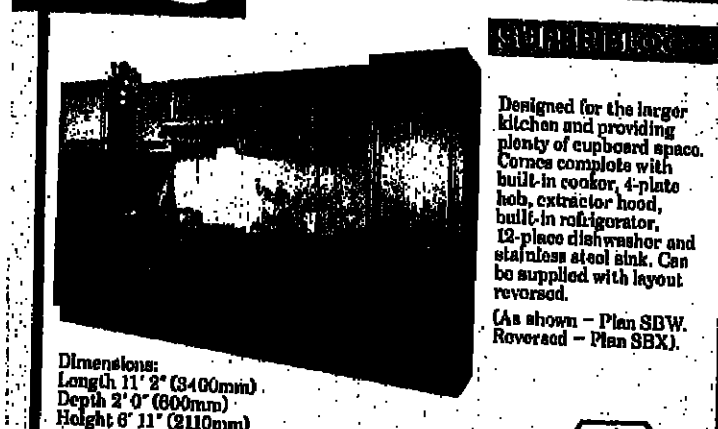
## EURO BLOC

This very popular compact bloc is designed for the smaller kitchen. It houses a built-under cooker, 4-plate hob, built-in refrigerator, extractor hood and stainless steel sink. Can be supplied with layout reversed.

(As shown — Plan EBS.  
Reversed — Plan EBV).  
Dimensions:  
Length 8' 11" (2700mm)  
Depth 2' 0" (600mm)  
Height 6' 11" (2110mm)

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## QUALITY KITCHENS FOR NEW OR REFURBISHED PROPERTIES

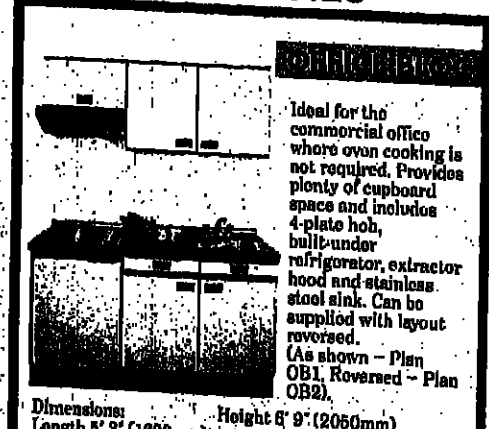


Designed for the larger kitchen and providing plenty of cupboard space. Comes complete with built-in cooker, 4-plate hob, extractor hood, built-in refrigerator, 12-place dishwasher and stainless steel sink. Can be supplied with layout reversed.

(As shown — Plan SBW.  
Reversed — Plan SBX).

Dimensions:  
Length 11' 9" (3400mm)  
Depth 2' 0" (600mm)  
Height 8' 11" (2110mm)

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Ideal for the commercial office where oven cooking is not required. Provides plenty of cupboard space and includes 4-plate hob, built-under refrigerator, extractor hood and stainless steel sink. Can be supplied with layout reversed.

(As shown — Plan OB1.  
Reversed — Plan OB2).

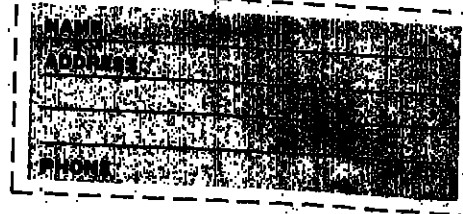
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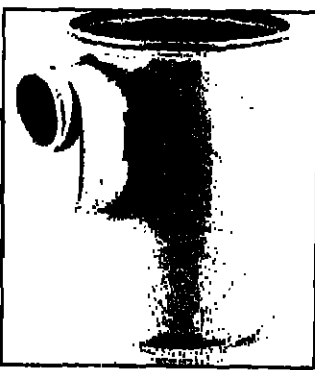


## New products

## Road gully

OFFERING an alternative to road gullies manufactured in conventional materials, Wayne Building Products has introduced the OsmuDrain upvc road gully. Its anti-floatation collar allows it to hold its position while the concrete surround is poured. It is impact resistant and light in weight, allowing one man to carry it and place it. A simple push-fit makes its joint with the 160mm OsmuDrain system and it is available in trapped and untrapped versions.

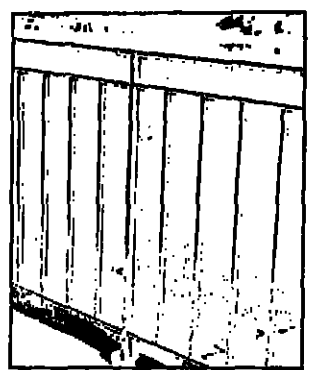
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## Stainless handrail

PARTICULARLY suited to prestigious and corrosive environments, the new stainless steel handrailing from Mark Rainer (Structural) is attractive and able to cope with the most aggressive of atmospheres. Originally developed to meet the needs of parts of the Middle East, the new handrail, which is made of stainless steel, joins Mark Rainer's product range of handrailing and flooring.

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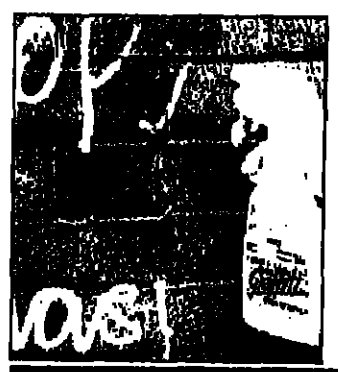
## Terracotta

STONEWARE, a company which has been in the Hepworth Group since 1980, ceased to trade as a separate company at the end of last year. Now its fast-growing range of terracotta products is being marketed and sold through the Hepworth clayware division. The range, which includes chimney pots, airbricks, flue liners and ridge tiles, also includes the Luncashire sill block and special coloured airbricks which are made to order.

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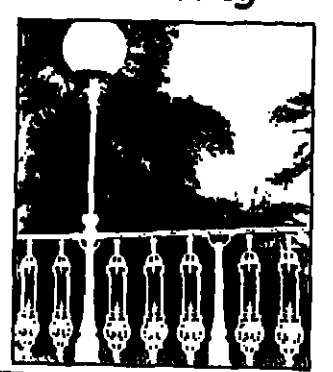
## Graffiti removal



THREE stain removers have been launched by JM. They are designed to remove graffiti from three types of surface — plastic (GR1), painted (GR2) and porous (GR3). All three chemicals are supplied in half-litre trigger spray bottles which refill from five-litre containers. The bottles have a choice of spray from mist to a powerful stream and the three chemicals are effective against aerosol spray paints, felt pen inks, latex paints, and crayon.

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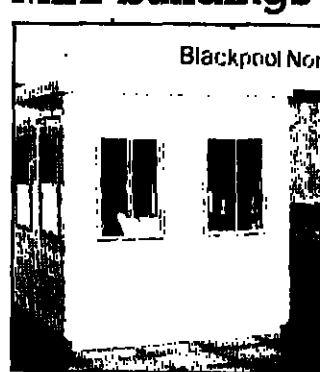
## Balustrading



TAKING authentic Victorian styles, Victoria Parkes Design has developed a range of ornamental balustrade and light products which combine Victorian appeal and craftsmanship with modern materials and service. Finished in polyester powder coating, the products are made in cast aluminium for lightness and ease of erection. They are also virtually maintenance-free.

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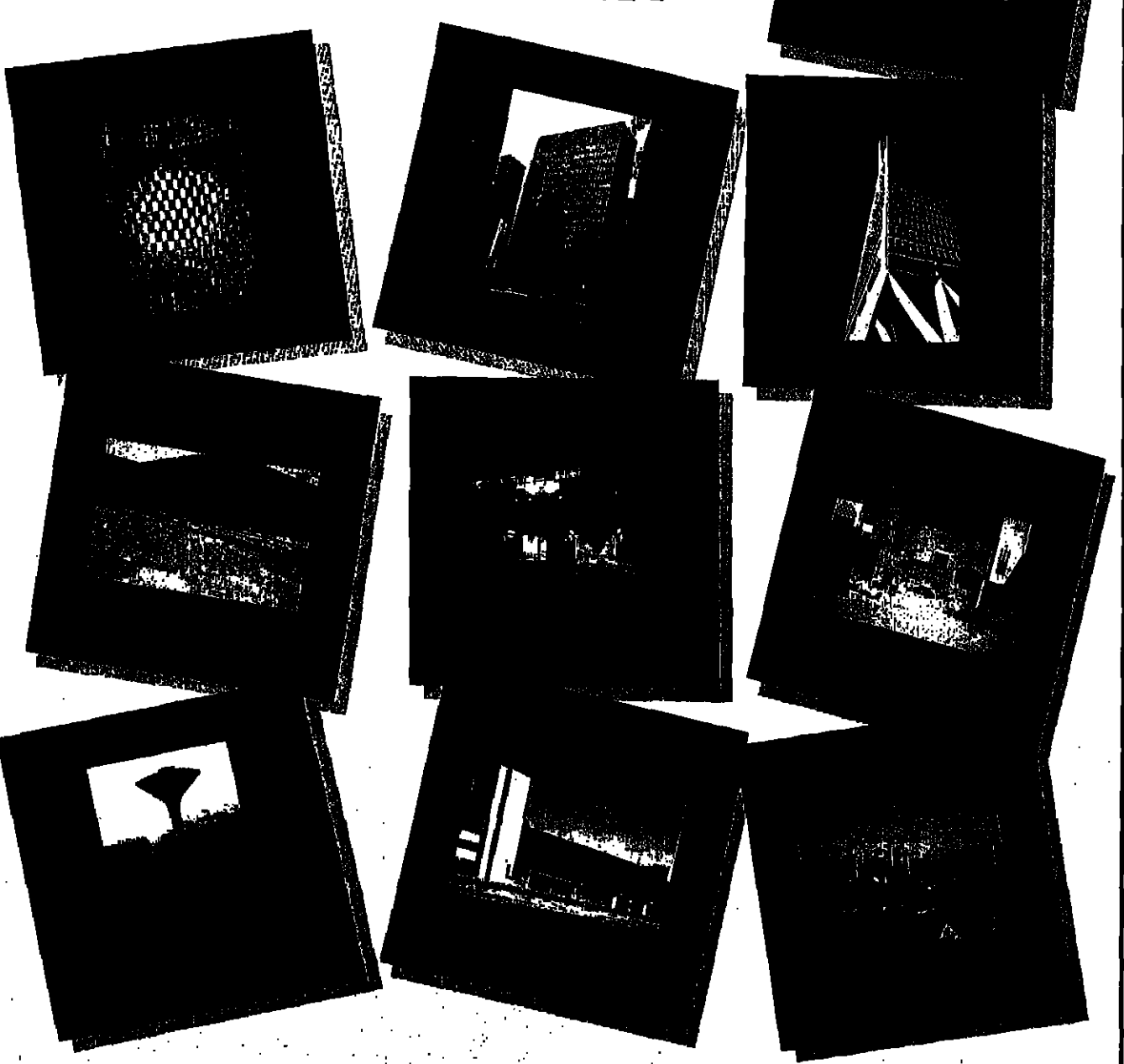
## Mini-buildings



GLASDON has introduced the Vicor range of buildings and kiosks. Constructed of grey panel, Victor units come in three widths (1,160, 2,160 and 3,160mm) and four lengths (1,160, 2,160, 3,160 and 4,160mm). Two panel ranges are offered — the Basic VK range which is economically priced and uninsulated and unlined, and the Deluxe VL range which is fully insulated and lined.

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# What do these have in common?



The sealant used was based on Morton-Thiokol LP Liquid Polysulphide Polymer. This has been the base for the production of high quality construction sealants for more than thirty years. It has also been the base for high quality Insulated Glass sealants for more than twenty years. The structures illustrated show successful contracts around the world, from near Arctic to tropical locations.

For further information, contact us.

## THIOLKOL CHEMICALS

Division of Morton Thiokol Limited

Station Tower, Station Square

Coventry CV1 2GH

Telephone: 0203 22123

Telex: 311412 Thicov G

A subsidiary of Morton Thiokol Inc.

## GRP luminaire

GLADEX Luminaires has launched its 1986 range of architectural luminaires which includes the Corinith — a wall fitting which discharges 78 per cent of its light upwards and 18 per cent downwards. The downward light may be diffused through an opal material, or through a prismatic base, as required. A wide range of GLS, fluorescent and discharge lamps (50W to 150W) can be used with the Corinith. The luminaire itself may be translucent to give a soft diffused light.

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## Look-alike panels



WITH the appearance of oak and cane, the new hardwood panels from Masonite Hardboard Servicing are remarkably convincing. Intended for use as internal wall linings in commercial as well as domestic properties, the Oak and Cane range is guaranteed against splitting or delaminating and is supplied in 2,400 x 1,200 x 6mm panels. The man-made finishes are said to be extremely permanent and in need of little maintenance.

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## Drafting systems

AMAZON Computers' ARC+ three-dimensional solid modelling design data base and drafting system, developed with the architect and constructional engineer in mind, is the subject of an eight-page colour brochure. This shows how the system, designed by architects, is equally suited to interior and exterior design applications. The system incorporates advanced computer-aided design techniques and it operates on either IBM mainframe or IBM PC machines.

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## Floor paint

PERMOGLAZE Paints has introduced a new Floor Paint which can be applied to concrete, tiles, linoleum, wood, hardwood, cement or stone substrates. It is tough dry in one hour and minimises dust contamination. Its tough gloss finish prevents surface dusting and is easy to keep clean. Application is by brush, roller or spray. Only on porous surfaces should more than one coat be necessary. Floor Paints are available in five litre cans in six colours.

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## Roof insulation

INTRODUCED specifically for use with pvc based single layer waterproofing membranes, Vencel Resil's Jabloc SLM consists of a laminated panel of phenolic resin bonded to a fibrous insulation board. This composite provides lightweight, strength and high thermal resistance. It is fully compatible with the pvc membranes and obviates the need for bitumen impregnated fibre boards are used. Jabloc SLM can be used in roof with an EXT/FAA/B fire rating.

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## Situations wanted



GHOSTING by competent all rounder R.L.B. and wife. Experience, friendly, London area and South East. Terms negotiable hourly or fixed fee. Tel: Anytime 01 871 0377 (Answerphone).

SOUTH DEVON. Year old student with previous office experience requires year out employment commencing July 1988. C.V. available. Phone 0848 3148 after 6pm.

YOUNG MAN (27) is going to be an architect. Offered a place to study architecture, part time at a London school — subject to employment. Being work from 6.30 in a symphony office. No previous draughting experience (but make 100, etc.) but can offer total commitment, love of subject and a lively personality. Any area of London. Tel: 01 228 2818.

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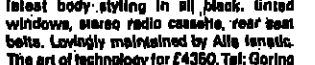
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## Accommodation



CORNWALL near Plymouth. Part furnished, sleeps 6/8. Bath, sitting, shops, Plymouth passenger ferry. All city centre. Tel: 0782 823814.

ALGARVE, FARO 10m. New detached villa overlooking hills. Sleeps 4/6. Fully equipped. Use of pool, tennis court, tennis, and service available. Further details and photographs on request. Tel: 0322 247184.

WANTED. Flat or part of house to rent. Young professional, mother with 7 year old son. Preferred central London. Please call 01 906 3286 ask for Anna.

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THURCO. CORNWALL. Comfortable Edwardian semi detached house fully modernised. 1000 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 2 terraces, 2 pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 gardens, 2 parking spaces. Tel: 01 784 2547.

KENT. Charming Mayfair Villa. 1000 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 2 terraces, 2 pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 gardens, 2 parking spaces. Tel: 01 784 2547.

KINGSTON. 5.5. Cornwall. Spacious 3 bedroomed house in beautiful Cornish village. 1000 sq. ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, 2 terraces, 2 pools, 2 tennis courts, 2 gardens, 2 parking spaces. Tel: 01 784 2547.

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Personnel Consultants  
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Tel: (0703) 223511

**HELP!**  
Wanted competent, flexible, freelance, Part-time Assistance (Hampshire, Midland, London, SW) to work mainly from own office/home, primarily on "up-market" conversion schemes, including surveys, presentation and building regulations. If you are interested and feel you could help please ring 01-411 2393

**ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXPERIENCED ARCHITECT**  
to work in a new practice in a varied and exciting environment. We have just moved into our own new offices which provide an exciting working environment.  
Please apply in writing with CV to:  
Stephenson/Mills  
St. Matthews, Liverpool Road  
Manchester M3 4NG

**SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN IN PETERBOROUGH**  
Apply in first instance by telephone to:  
Morphy Associates  
4 Granville Street, Peterborough  
Tel: 0534 1412

**MELDRUM, LEE & GILLATT Architects & Quantity Surveyors**  
require **ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN**  
Please write with full CV to  
49 High Street  
Boston  
Lincolnshire PE1 1SP

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT - TECHNICIAN**  
with minimum of 1 year post part II experience to join our office.  
The successful applicant will become a key member in a small team engaged in the detailed design and supervision of works on site.  
In the first instance ring  
01-247 5771

**NICHOLAS LACEY, JOBST & HYETT**  
require **ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**  
with minimum of 1 year post part II experience to join our office.  
The successful applicant will become a key member in a small team engaged in the detailed design and supervision of works on site.  
In the first instance ring  
01-247 5771

**OFFICE TO LET**  
**OFFICE ACCOMMODATION**  
available near Victoria Station, 400-1100 sq. ft. will suit architectural, engineering or quantity surveying practice. Possibility to share facilities.  
Full details please phone  
Sheila Johnson on  
630 1538 or 898 0794

## PUBLIC SECTOR APPOINTMENTS

**Trafford Borough Council**  
Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department  
**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT**  
Scale 6/503 £8,979-£11,604 p.a.

Duties will include the preparation of working drawings on a variety of major projects of all types together with the design and supervision of small projects. Experience in the use of C.A.D. would be an advantage.

**ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN**  
Scale 3/5 £6,234-£8,697 p.a.

Applicants should have the ability to work within a team designing various large projects and also to be responsible for minor projects under general supervision. Applicants should preferably hold a minimum qualification of H.N.C. or equivalent with a sound knowledge of good building practice and several years experience. Part II architectural students would be considered at an appropriate point on the salary scale. A casual user car allowance is payable.

Application forms and further information from and returnable from Miss J. Karshaw, telephone 061 878 2101 ext 4488. Application forms returnable to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, PO Box 19, Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Trafford, Manchester M32 0YX. Closing date: 16th May 1986.

**London Borough of Camden HOUSING DEPARTMENT**

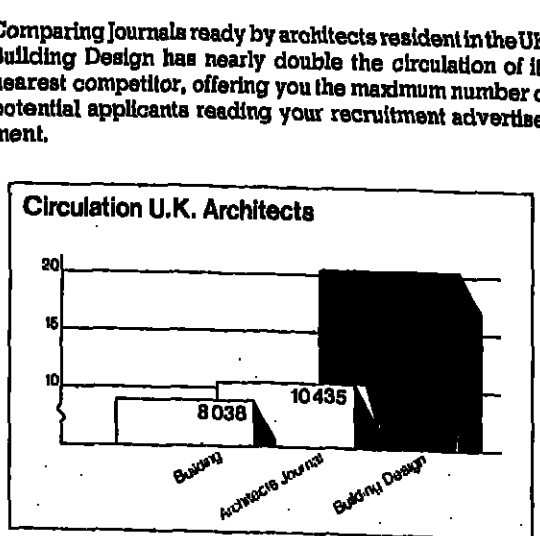
**Technical Liaison Officer**  
£10,296-£10,908 p.a. (inc.)  
+ essential user car allowance

We are looking for someone who enjoys working directly with tenants on major improvements and repair projects. You will assist in the organisation and implementation of tenants consultation briefing surveys, architects and representing the department on site during the construction, contract procedures, the ability to communicate with the public, members and senior management essential.

Application form from and to be returned to: Director of Housing, Bidborough House, Bidborough Street, WC1H 8DB or telephone 01-388 6935 (Answerphone) quoting ref no 7/206/BD. Closing date 18th May 1986.

**Camden Services**  
equal opportunity employer  
Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, with equal opportunities for women, black/ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities, and regardless of marital status, age, creed, religion and unrelated criminal conviction. All posts are open for job sharing.

**RECRUIT YOUR STAFF THROUGH BUILDING DESIGN**  
Comparing Journals ready by architects resident in the UK, Building Design has nearly double the circulation of its nearest competitor, offering you the maximum number of potential applicants reading your recruitment advertisement.



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TELEPHONE PAUL NUDDS ON 01-885 7777

**COMPETITION**

**GRANGE SCHOOL HARTFORD COMPETITION**

A Single Stage Project competition to provide extra accommodation coupled with the need generally to reorganise the overall development requirements, and to create a corporate image to the Grange School at Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire.  
Applications for the Brief and Conditions are invited from Architects within the area of the RIBA North West Region. Application should be made, accompanied by a non-refundable fee of £25 (cheque to be made payable to 'Grange School (Hartford) Ltd'), to Mrs A. Pitham, The Grange School, Bredburn Lane, Hartford, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1UR by 28 May 1986.  
1st Prize — £1600, 2nd Prize — £800, 3rd Prize — £500  
Assessors: Roger C Marshall Dip. Arch. (Leeds) RIBA  
Richard Ward MA Dip. Arch. (Canterbury) RIBA  
F H Appleby FRICS  
G Scott Marshall MA  
Submission date — 4.00 pm Thursday 17 July 1986

**CITY ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT GROUP LEADER ARCHITECT**  
Post No. CA 15 PO 34-37 £11,604-£12,613

This is a challenging position for an Architect with sound design ability and project management experience.  
The successful applicant will lead a small team of Architects and Technicians in implementing the City Council's development programme related to Leisure, Cultural, Inner City and other non-housing initiatives. Current schemes include a new Tranopon Museum, Community Centres, the refurbishment of listed buildings in the Central Area and a large programme of property maintenance.

Applicants should have 5 years post qualification experience and possess some local government experience.  
A casual user car allowance is payable and in appropriate cases the cost of removal and relocation expenses will be payable.

Application forms and further details are available from the City Manpower Officer, Municipal Offices, Trippett Street, George Street, Hull HU2 8AA. Tel: (0482) 222183 to whom they should be returned by Wednesday 21st May, 1986.

**Hull City Council**

**Middlesbrough Borough Council**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY DEPARTMENT**

**Architectural Technician** £6,234-£8,697  
A vacancy exists in the architectural service for a qualified technician to join a group of architects and technicians working on a wide range of building types involving existing buildings as well as new build.

If you are interested in joining a pleasant, friendly office, are prepared to work hard and can show a commitment to producing a good quality and product please apply for an application form and job description to Mr A. Noble, Chief Economic Development and Property Officer, PO Box 85, Vancouver House, Central Mews, Gurney Street, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. Tel (0842) 246432 Ext 3682. Closing date 18 May 1986.

If you would like to talk about this job you are welcome to speak to Tom Riding (Assistant Chief Officer: Architecture) on Ext 3767. It is the policy of Middlesbrough Borough Council to provide equal employment opportunities and consideration will be given to all suitably experienced and qualified applicants regardless of handicap, sex or race.

The Council has a policy of inviting for interview all disabled persons who have the written support of their Disability Resettlement Officer.  
Job sharing facilities are available.

**Senior Quantity Surveyor**  
Up to £14,718 pa

We need an experienced and qualified surveyor to lead and direct a small team of surveyors within a busy and lively office.

There is a current and future programme of work which includes the provision of schools, social service facilities, a leisure centre, housing and refurbishment projects, and the redevelopment of the town centre. The quantity surveying section participates at various levels throughout the development and building process and provides a security service for the work of the building maintenance section.

The salary is between £13,578 and £14,718 with the actual starting point being dependent upon qualifications. Corporate membership of the RICS preferred and experience.

If you wish to discuss the post contact Mr M. Biggs, Chief Quantity Surveyor on 01-464 3333 Ext. 6674.  
For an application form please contact Chief Personnel Officer, Bromley Civic Centre, Rochester Avenue, Bromley BR1 3UH. Tel: 01-280 0324 (24 hour answering service), Ext. C.496. Closing date: 18th May 1986.

Applications from ex-employees of the GLC/MCC or London Residuary Body staff with relevant experience will be welcome.

**Bromley**  
THE LONDON BOROUGH

**STUDY TOURS**

**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S AMERICA**  
September 9-23, 1986

This unique study tour to the United States explores Wright's work and that of his tutor, Louis Sullivan. Over ten houses not normally open to the public will be visited and it will be impractical to repeat this opportunity for several years. A complete selection of each of Wright's work will be seen as well as the more famous houses such as the Robie and Falling Water Residences, Taliesin East, the Johnson Wax Factory and the Guggenheim Museum. The tour begins with a direct flight to Chicago and ends in New York and New Jersey. Patrick Davies who has taken diplomas in architecture at both Harvard and Cambridge, lectures at the Bartlett School, London University and has just begun his own architectural practice.

Further details from:  
**STUDY TOURS ACE**  
Babraham, Cambridge CB2 4AP  
Telephone: 0223-835033  
ATOL 616

## PUBLIC SECTOR APPOINTMENTS

**DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Director of Design Services**  
Salary circa £23,000 p.a.

This challenging post will become vacant in the summer of 1986. The Council is seeking an experienced and capable professional who can demonstrate leadership, managerial experience, initiative and enthusiasm for managing an important department.

Application forms and further details are available from:  
The Chief Executive (Personnel Section)  
2 Priory Place  
Doncaster DN1 1BN  
Tel: Doncaster 734020  
Closing date 20th May 1986.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER  
Applications from disabled persons welcome.

**SDC SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CONTROLLER OF TECHNICAL AND PLANNING SERVICES**

**Architectural Technician (2 Posts)**  
Salary — Scale 4/5 (£6900-£8697)  
(TEMPORARY — INITIALLY FOR 12 MONTHS)

The vacancies exist in the very busy Architect's Technical Control Unit for experienced Architectural Technicians to work on a variety of new housing and rehabilitation schemes, producing working drawings, details and schedules.

Applicants will have to demonstrate a high degree of commitment and the ability to work with a minimum of supervision.

It will be an advantage to the postholders to be able to provide a car for which a Casual Allowance will be paid.

Application form and job description may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Civic Centre (Extension 210) and should be returned by the 16th May 1986.

**CIVIC CENTRE FOLKESTONE KENT**

**LIVINGSTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING**

Livingston has an enviable reputation as the heart of Scotland's Silicon Glen.

Although the Town has a diverse industrial base, its present strength and growth is in the field of high technology. A significant number of overseas manufacturing organisations have opened plants in Livingston, and increasingly the town is proving a successful location for complementary support organisations.

It is essential therefore, that the Corporation has available, in house, professional staff, knowledge of, and experienced in, the exacting requirements of High Technology Industry.

The Corporation therefore invites applications for a key position in its Professional Team supporting the Town's Industrial Growth.

**PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT (INDUSTRY)**  
New Towns Grade X (£14,970-£17,298)

The successful applicant for this post will be responsible for leading a team of fourteen professional and technical staff involved in Designing and Building for Industry. The work ranges from the Corporation's advance factory programme, and factory refurbishment, to advising on and designing purpose built, highly serviced, buildings for the microelectronics industry. An important component of the work is involvement in feasibility studies, as part of the Corporation's work in attracting industry.

The successful applicant will require to have knowledge and first hand experience in designing and constructing buildings for the microelectronics industry. Experience of "fast track" construction management techniques is desirable as is a highly developed design sense. A thorough knowledge of modern industrial building technology is an essential prerequisite for any applicant.

The post attracts a salary of between £14,970 and £17,298 and placing on the grade will be commensurate with experience etc.

There are excellent general conditions of employment including the choice of two contributing Superannuation schemes, free life Assurance and flexible working hours. Housing is available to rent or buy and assistance may be given with the cost of removal and legal expenses in approved cases. Motor mileage allowances are payable whilst on duty and a car purchase loan scheme is in operation.

Application forms, returnable by 16 May 1986, are available from the Personnel Officer, Livingston Development Corporation, Sidlaw House, Almondvale, Livingston, telephone 0566 414177 Ext 8435.

**DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Architect**  
Grade PO1 £11,973-£12,861 p.a. inclusive  
plus "casual user" car allowance

We have a vacancy for an Architect to join a group engaged in a range of interesting educational projects. He/she will be responsible to the Group Architect for the design and supervision of his/her own projects, leading a multi-disciplinary design team.

We are looking for design flair, a high level of technical and administrative competence, and an ability to work to programme. Previous experience of educational work may be an advantage.

The offices are situated in Chingford, close to Epping Forest and the M26. Please quote ref N7638.  
Application form and job description from: Recruitment Officer, Personnel Department, Town Hall, Walthamstow E17 4JF. Tel. No. 01-531 8889 (24 hours answering service). Closing date: 18th May 1986.

**AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**  
Applicants are considered for posts regardless of disability, sex, race and marital status.

**Waltham Forest**

**Buckinghamshire County Council**

**Department of Architecture**

**ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN**  
Salary within the range Scale 2/6 £5,550-£9,591 depending on experience and qualifications.

The successful applicant will be engaged upon the design, construction and general maintenance of buildings. The responsibilities will require the production of detailed drawings based upon a sound knowledge of building techniques.

Applicants should possess the Higher Technical Certificate in Building Studies, or equivalent, and preferably be members of the Society of Architectural and Associated Technicians.

**ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN (Temporary Post)**  
Salary within the range £3,309-£6,078 depending on age, experience and qualifications.

To join the Area Office team based at Fenny Stratford and assist in the design, construction and general maintenance of buildings. Applicants should be capable of producing detailed drawings based upon a sound knowledge of building techniques.

The appointment will be for a period of one year only in the first instance.  
Preference will be given to applicants who hold a technical qualification.

Application forms and further details obtainable from (s.a.s.): County Architect, Department of Architecture, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 1UX or telephone Aylesbury 5000 Ext 818 or 702. Closing Date: 18th May 1986.  
Equal Opportunities Employer.

**Architectural Technician/ Architectural Assistant/ Project Architect**

(Temporary Two Years)  
Salary £7920-£10638 p.a.

Required to work on a wide range of Housing and General Works projects. The successful applicant will have shown an ability to produce quick and accurate work, and will have good design sense. Architectural Technicians should either be undertaking or have completed a course of study relative to obtaining a Higher National Diploma (Building), with a supplementary certificate in Building Technology (or their recognised equivalent). Appointment as an Architectural Assistant is only available to a person undertaking a course of architectural study with a view to registration with A.R.C.U.K., and who has passed the Part I examination of the R.I.B.A. A person who is, or becomes, registered with A.R.C.U.K. would be appointed as a Project Architect on a salary grade SO1 £9975-£10638 p.a.

Casual User Car Allowance is payable. A generous Disturbance Allowance Scheme is in operation. Flexible working hours and canteen facilities.

Closing date: 18th May 1986.  
Interview date: 4th June 1986.  
Application form and job description may be obtained from the Chief Personnel Officer, Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1WV. Telephone: Canterbury (0227) 461765 Ext. 4206.

**CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING BOROUGH ARCHITECT'S DIVISION**

**ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS/TECHNICIANS**  
Grade APTC Sc.2/SO1 or APTC Sc.1/6  
Salary £5,994-£11,331 p.a. inclusive

Candidates must be suitably experienced and possess or be studying for either RIBA Part 1/2 or B.T.E.C./Higher B.T.E.C. in Construction.

Acar allowance is payable in each case, and assistance may be given for temporary accommodation, lodging allowance and return rail fares home, and on the purchase of a house in the area, legal costs and removal expenses.

For an application form and further information, telephone Romford 46040, Ext. 2311 or 2312. Completed application forms are to be returned to the Borough Architect, Technical Offices, Spilbury Road, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 8UU by 19th May 1986.

**(Re-Advertisement)**

**PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT ARCHITECT POST NO. HE8**

Salary: £11,280-£12,885 p.a. Grade: PO  
Wokingham District Council has one of the fastest growing populations in the County, largely due to its location. This has led to an increased requirement for Council-provided facilities.

The Architects Section is facing a marked increase in workload and is urgently seeking the right person to fill this senior post. Applicants must be Registered Architects and have had previous experience on local authority housing developments. They will need to demonstrate leadership qualities and organisational skills and be prepared to shoulder responsibility. The bulk of the work is new build housing and alterations to the Council's housing stock but there is also a wide variety of other projects at various stages in hand at this time.

The Council looks for staff with flair and imagination, a strong sense of design and, naturally, a sound knowledge of building construction as well as all levels are encouraged to shoulder as much responsibility as their experience permits.

The Council has a generous relocation scheme offering assistance towards Legal and Estate Agents fees, removal expenses, etc. and temporary housing may be offered if appropriate. An essential user car allowance is payable.

For further information and an informal chat, phone the Principal Architect, Eddie Boyle, on Wokingham (0734) 788833, extn. 338.

For an application form and job description, returnable by the 18th May 1986, please contact the Personnel Section, District Secretary's Department, Council Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire RG11 1BN. Telephone: Wokingham (0734) 788833, extn. 206, quoting reference HE8.

**WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
**Historic Buildings Officer**

Grade PO.3 (£11,850-£12,885)

This newly created post is responsible for specialist advice on all aspects of the repair and maintenance of historic buildings. This will include matters related to listed buildings in respect of planning applications, grant aid applications, and building condition surveys.

You will join a small multi-disciplinary team which provides specialist advice on historic buildings, conservation and archaeological advice to each of the five District Councils within the County of Tyne & Wear, under a new 'lead district' agreement.

Applicants should be architects with considerable experience of the repair of historic buildings. An additional conservation qualification would be an advantage.

**Joint Landscape Group Assistant Landscape Architects**  
(Scale 5/SO.2 (£7,920-£11,604))

Suitably qualified to join the Joint Landscape Group which under the direction of the City Planning Officer and the City Architect provides a comprehensive landscape advisory and design service.

Duties include the design and implementation of landscape projects from initial design, through contract to final maintenance, and advice on planning applications, Citywide and Local Plans and tree preservation, etc. Closing date for applications 19th May 1986.

Application form and a job description available from the City Planning Officer, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6PH (tel 0632-328520, ext. 6105).

**City of Newcastle upon Tyne**  
This is an Equal Opportunities Advertisement  
Applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the post, regardless of ethnic origin, sex, marital status or disability.